Malcolm Gluck's
SUPERPLONK
2002
The Complete Guide to
Supermarket Wine

SUPERPLONK 2002

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Malcolm Gluck is wine correspondent of the *Guardian* newspaper. He is 104 years old and lives in London which he negotiates almost exclusively by bicycle. He is known to exaggerate – but never about wine.

SUPERPLONK 2002

MALCOLM GLUCK

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To Barrie Gibson, David Stewart, Simon Cooper and Paul Trelford for introducing me, via *superplonk.com*, to the 21st century

'. . . I love corn and wine. They are our chief and our oldest luxuries. Time has brought us substitutes, but how inferior! Man has deified corn and wine but not even the Chinese or the Irish have raised temples to tea and potatoes.'

From *Coningsby*, by Benjamin Disraeli

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INTRODUCTION

Ever mindful of Ecclesiastes 2 3 – 'I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine' I became a writer on the subject in the late 1980s. The first *Superplonk* column appeared in the *Guardian* thirteen years ago The wine guides quickly followed.

It occurred to me I might be read; might find appreciative readers. What I never anticipated was how much critical lather my championing of good value wine would cause to bubble out of the pens of the incensed, the entrenched, the green eyed, the me-too hacked off, and the various noodleheads that collectively form the bulk of the wine media and the wine book reviewing fraternity.

If I gave the matter of my new career path any thought it was that I would quietly and industriously beaver away in my little corner, drinking my way along the nation's wine shelves and reporting on my findings, whilst the rest of humanity, *Guardian* readers and *Superplonk* guide buyers excepted, would cheerfully ignore me, as we do the rarer breeds of flat worm. But it was not to be.

My very first annual wine guide, in January 1991, was greeted with mild disdain but it was the second, that same year in November, which caused hackles to rise in certain quarters and a certain rural wine merchant wrote to Faber & Faber, my then publisher, announcing his disgust that someone should seek to popularise the wine in supermarkets. He would, he added charmingly, like to shoot the author His own business, it was revealed, was struggling to survive in the face of the then vicious recession and it was I who was driving him on to the rocks.

The newspaper reviewers began to take notice of the book and generally, as the years rolled by and with each one a fresh edition of the guide appeared, the sound of grinding axes was deafening. One mistake I made, or rather the publishers did, was to permit the book to become top of its category in the Best Sellers charts in *The Sunday Times* year after year. It was also the only wine book to feature annually amongst the One Hundred Top Selling books of the year.

It was not a good way to become popular with the dinosaurs· the stick-in the-mud wine merchants, the long established wine scribes, the old

boys and girls brigade. And, when I compiled a vast list of all the reviews, stinking and fragrant, I had received over the years since the first *Superplonk* was published and wrote it up as this current book's introduction, it was not a good way to become popular with my publisher. 'It's 17,000 words long!' she expostulated. 'Stick it on the website. Spare your readers so lengthy an introduction.'

And so I did. However, never one to throw good work away, and mindful that it took me many months to compile with the help of Linda Peskin, my assistant, I have done as advised. If you want to trawl through what I put together then please visit *superplonk.com*, access Articles, and go to Brickbats & Bouquets – 12 years of critical response to *Superplonk*.

HOW I RATE A WINE

Value for money is my single unwavering focus I drink with my readers' pockets in my mouth I do not see the necessity of paying a lot for a bottle of everyday drinking wine and only rarely do I consider it worth paying a high price for, say, a wine for a special occasion or because you want to experience what a so-called 'grand' wine may be like. There is more codswallop talked and written about wine, especially the so-called 'grand' stuff, than any subject except sex. The stench of this gobbledygook regularly perfumes wine merchants' catalogues, spices the backs of bottles, and rancidises the writings of those infatuated by or in the pay of producers of a particular wine region I do taste expensive wines regularly I do not, regularly, find them worth the money That said, there are some pricey bottles in these pages. They are here either because I wish to provide an accurate, but low, rating of their worth so that readers will be given pause for thought or because the wine is genuinely worth every penny. A wine of magnificent complexity, thrilling fruit, superb aroma, great depth and finesse is worth drinking. I would not expect it to be an inexpensive bottle. I will rate it highly I wish all wines which commanded such high prices were so well deserving of an equally high rating. The thing is, of course, that many bottles of wine I taste do have finesse and depth but do not come attached to an absurdly high price tag. These are the bottles I prize most As, I hope, you will.

20 Is outstanding and faultless in all departments: smell, taste and finish in the throat Worth the price, even if you have to take out a second mortgage.

19 A superb wine. Almost perfect and well worth the expense (if it is an expensive bottle).

18 An excellent wine but lacking that ineffable sublimity of richness and complexity to achieve the very highest rating But superb drinking and thundering good value.

17 An exciting, well made wine at an affordable price which offers real glimpses of multi-layered richness.

16 Very good wine indeed. Good enough for *any* dinner party Not expensive but terrifically drinkable, satisfying and multi-dimensional properly balanced.

15 For the money, a good mouthful with real style. Good flavour and fruit without costing a packet.

14 The top end of the everyday drinking wine Well made and to be seriously recommended at the price.

13 Good wine, true to its grape(s). Not great, but very drinkable.

12 Everyday drinking wine at a sensible price. Not exciting, but worthy.

11 Drinkable, but not a wine to dwell on. You don't wed a wine like this, though you might take it behind the bike shed with a bag of fish and chips.

10 Average wine (at a low price), yet still just about a passable mouthful Also, wines which are terribly expensive and, though drinkable, cannot justify their high price.

9 Cheap plonk. Just about fit for parties in dustbin sized dispensers.

8 On the rough side here.

7 Good for pickling onions or cleaning false teeth.

6 Hardly drinkable except on an icy night by a raging bonfire.

5 Wine with more defects than delights

4 Not good at any price.

3 Barely drinkable.

2* Seriously did this wine come from grapes?

1* The utter pits. The producer should be slung in prison.

The rating system above can be broken down into six broad sections.

0* to 10*. Avoid – unless entertaining stuffy wine writer.

10*, 11*. Nothing poisonous but, though drinkable, rather dull.

12*, 13*. Above average, interestingly made Solid rather then sensational

14*, 15*, 16*: This is the exceptional, hugely drinkable stuff, from the very good to the brilliant.

17*, 18* Really wonderful wine worth anyone's money complex, rich, exciting.

19*, 20* A toweringly brilliant world-class wine of self-evident style and individuality.

PRICES

It is impossible to guarantee the price of any wine in this guide This is why instead of printing the exact shop price, each wine is given a price bracket This attempts to eliminate the problem of printing the wrong price for a wine This can occur for all the usual boring but understandable reasons: inflation, economic conditions overseas, the narrow margins on some supermarket wines making it difficult to maintain consistent prices and, of course, the existence of those freebooters at the Exchequer who are liable to inflate taxes which the supermarkets cannot help but pass on. But even price bracketing is not foolproof A wine listed in the book at, say, a lower price bracket might be on sale at a higher bracket. How? Because a wine close to but under, say, £3 50 in spring when I tasted it might sneak across the border in summer. It happens rarely enough not to concern me overmuch, but wine is an agricultural import, a sophisticated liquid food, and that makes it volatile where price is concerned. Frankly, I admire the way in which retailers have kept prices so stable for so many

years. We drink cheaper (and healthier) wine now than we did thirty years ago.

NOTE:

The prices of 3-litre wine boxes have been adjusted to their 75cl bottle equivalent.

HEALTH WARNING!

Health Warning is an arresting phrase and I have used it for some years now. I hope by employing it I may save you from working yourself up into a state. Let me explain.

I get a few letters a week from readers (both column and book) telling me that a wine which I have said is on sale in a certain supermarket is not there and that the wine has either sold out or the branch claims to have no knowledge of it, I get letters telling me that a wine is a bit dearer than I said it was, and I get the odd note revealing that the vintage of the 16-point wine I have enthused about and which my correspondent desperately wants to buy is different from the one listed.

First of all, let me say that no wine guide in the short and inglorious history of the genre is more exhaustively researched, checked and double checked than this one. I do not list a wine if I do not have assurances from its retailer that it will be widely on sale when the guide is published. Where a wine is on restricted distribution, or stocks are short and vulnerable to the assault of determined readers (i.e. virtually all high rating, very cheap bottles), I will always clearly say so. However, large retailers use computer systems which cannot anticipate uncommon demand and which often miss the odd branch off the anticipated stocking list. I cannot check every branch myself (though I do nose around them when I can) and so a wine in this book may well, infuriatingly, be missing at the odd branch of its retailer and may not even be heard of by the branch simply because of inhuman error. Conversely, the same technology often tells a retailer's head office that a wine is out of stock when it has merely been cleared out of the warehouse. It may still be on sale in certain branches. Then there is the fact that not every wine I write about is stocked by every single branch of its listed supermarket. Every store has what are called retail plans and there may be half a dozen of these, and every wine is subject to a different stocking policy according to the dictates of these cold-hearted plans.

I accept a wine as being in healthy distribution if several hundred branches, all over the country not just in selected parts of it, stock the wine. Do not assume, however, that this means every single branch has the wine.

I cannot, equally, guarantee that every wine in this book will still be in the same price bracket as printed. The vast majority will be. But there will always be the odd bottle from a country suddenly subject to a vicious swing in currency rates, or subject to an unprecedented rise in production costs which the supermarket cannot or is not prepared to swallow, and so a few pennies will get added to the price. If it is pounds, then you have cause for legitimate grievance. Please write to me. But don't lose a night's sleep if a wine is 20p more than I said it is. If you must, write to the appropriate supermarket. The department and the address to write to is provided with each supermarket's entry.

Now the puzzle of differing vintages. When I list and rate a wine, I do so only for the vintage stated. Any other vintage is a different wine requiring a new rating. Where vintages do have little difference in fruit quality, and more than a single vintage is on sale, then I say this clearly. If two vintages are on sale, and vary in quality and/or style, then they will be separately rated. However, be aware of one thing.

Superplonk is the biggest-selling wine guide in the Queendom. I say this not to brag but, more important, to acquaint you with a reality which may cause you some irritation. When *Superplonk* appears on sale there will be lots of eager drinkers aiming straight for the highest-rating wines as soon as possible after the book is published. Thus the supermarket wine buyer who assures me that she has masses of stock of Domaine Piddlewhatsit and the wine will withstand the most virulent of sieges may find her shelves emptying in a tenth of the time she banked on – not knowing, of course, how well I rate the wine until the book goes on sale. It is entirely possible, therefore, that the vintage of a highly rated wine may sell out so quickly that new stocks of the follow-on vintage may be urgently brought on to the shelf before I have tasted them. This can happen in some instances. I offer a bunch of perishable pansies, not a wreath of immortelles. I can do nothing about this fact of wine writing life, except to give up writing about wine.

Lastly, one thing more.

'Wine is a hostage to several fortunes (weather being even more uncertain and unpredictable than exchange rates) but the wine writer is hostage to just one. he cannot pour for his readers precisely the same wine as he poured for himself.'

This holds true for every wine in this book and every wine I will write

about in the years to come (for as long as my liver holds out) I am sent wines to taste regularly and I attend wine tastings all the time. If a wine is corked on these occasions, that is to say in poor condition because it has been tainted by the tree bark which is its seal, then it is not a problem for a bottle in decent condition to be quickly supplied for me to taste. This is not, alas, a luxury which can be extended to my readers.

So if you find a wine not to your taste because it seems pretty foul or 'off' in some way, then do not assume that my rating system is up the creek, you may take it that the wine is faulty and must be returned as soon as possible to its retailer. Every retailer in this book is pledged to provide an instant refund for any faulty wine returned – no questions asked. I am not asking readers to share all my tastes in wine, or to agree completely with every rating for every wine But where a wine I have rated well is obviously and patently foul then it is a duff bottle and you should be compensated by getting a fresh bottle free or by being given a refund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am responsible for every word in this book and for tasting all its wines. I do not, however, function alone. Linda Peskin, who checks all the wines for vintages, prices and availability for my weekly *Guardian* column, is responsible for data entry and management of the wine entries for this book. In order for me to write the introductions to each retailer I am indebted to Ben Cooper who does the background research. I am also beholden to various bodies (forever busy) at my publishers Martin Neild (concerned with my contract and performance), Rowena Webb (who is my editor), Sheila Crowley (who directs the sales team), Karen Geary (who directs publicity), Jamie Hodder-Williams (who directs marketing), Emma Heyworth Dunn who oversaw the copy editing and Lyn Parry who did it. I am also grateful to the tireless Georgina Moore who directs herself (into my annual tour of the nation's bookshops). Significant in the shadows are my literary agents Felicity Rubinstein, Sarah Lutyens, and Susannah Godman. I am also in debt to Paul Trelford, *superplonk.com*'s website editor, who supervised the Stop Press data entry.

PART 1

A TO Z OF COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA

Could become the greatest organic vineyard in the world

ASDA RED

Argentinian Bonarda 1999, Asda 14.5 £5.00

Argentinian Syrah 1999, Asda 16 £5.00
Not remotely like Aussie Shiraz or Rhône Syrah, this spicy, rich, deeply textured, well-fruited wine is a revelation. Great concentration of elements

Casa Latina Shiraz Tempranillo 1999 16 £5.00
Terrific buzz about this ripe, tannically rich wine. Has a plump texture which really sticks to the taste buds. Selected stores.

Far Flung El Montero Shiraz Reserva 2000 14 £5–7
Rather demure for an Argentinian Shiraz, even though it gallops off in fine style but then canters as it gets to the finish . . . and then becomes rather benign when I wanted more danger.

Far Flung Malbec 2000 15 £5.00
Very juicy opening then delicious slow-moving tannins evolve.

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet and rich. Great with Indian food.

Nieto Senetiner Bonarda Reserva 2000 15 £5–7
Very busy-as-a-bee richness and spicy tannins with a lingering aftertaste of cocoa. A wine to appal the snob.

Nieto Senetiner Merlot Reserve 2000 14 £5–7
Very ripe coating to the plums which turns out to be currants. Then tannins strike and grip. Very individual approach to Merlot I've not trodden before.

Santa Julia Tempranillo Reserva 1999 16.5 £5–7
Delicious! Delicious! Delicious! I'll say it again . . .

BOOTHS RED

El Montonero Bonarda Barbera 1999 15.5 £5.00

Finca el Retiro Malbec, Mendoza 2000 16.5 £5–7
Terrific textured plums and ripe

blackcurrants. Good tannins and a rousing savoury finish.

Libertad Malbec 14.5 £5.00
Bonarda 2000
Rich and ready.

Mission Peak Red NV 13.5 £3.50

Terrazas Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14.5 £5.7

BUDGENS RED

Argento Malbec 2000 12.5 £5.00
Supremely well textured and aromatic, complex and dusted with finely wrought tannins, this is simply one of the best wines in the world under a fiver. It delivers such style, class and deliciousness for the money that it seems almost unfair to rate it and thus compare it with reds from France, Italy, Spain, Australia, South Africa and Chile.

Etchart Rio de Plata Tempranillo/Malbec 1999 14 £5.00
Needs a good spicy banger in front of it.

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet and rich. Great with Indian food.

CO-OP RED

Adiseno Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999 16 £5.00
An affront to civilised values this rumbustiously rich, outspoken wine. It's hugely loveable, ripe, textured, fleshy and deep and it never shuts up. Great stuff. Superstores only

Adiseno Shiraz Reserve 1999 16 £5-7
Delicious creamy richness and very smooth tannins. An individual approach to the Shiraz conundrum: do you make it dry or jammy? Here, triumphantly, it is both. Superstores only.

Adiseno Tempranillo 2000 15.5 £5.00
Delicious plums – with aplomb. Better than many a Rioja.

Argentine Malbec 2000, Co-op 16 £5.00
Delicious meaty richness and controlled rampancy of attack – fine tannins, fine fruit.

Argentine Malbec Bonarda 2000, Co-op 15.5 £5.00
Brilliant value, brilliant wine. The Malbec gives the jammier Bonarda bite and character

Argentine Old Vines Sangiovese 2000, Co-op 16 £5.00
Out-points any Chianti at the same price because of its weight, lovely toasty finish, and exquisite tannins.

Argento Malbec 1999 16 £5.00
Steals across the tastebuds with beautifully textured, soft fruit.

Bianchi Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 12 £7-10

A stunningly well-composed wine of restraint yet full-blooded richness. The acids and tannins supply the guile, the fruit the gentle spice and firm cassis and chocolate edging. A terrific wine for all sorts of roast bird. Superstores only.

Bin 99 Argentine Cabernet Franc Reserve 1999, Co-op 16 £5–7
Exotic hints of wild herbs, gravy, gunsmoke and charred fruit (blackcurrants and plums). Is there a hint of chive and coriander? Terrific food wine. Not at Convenience Stores.

Corte X Syrah Torrontes 2000, Co-op 13 £5.00
Odd blend of red and a little white (grapes)

Elsa Barbera 1999 15.5 £5.00

Graffigna Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 16 £9.00
Such superb tannins – absolutely delicious. And they coat cherries, plums and blackcurrants with great verve.

Graffigna Shiraz Reserve 1999 15.5 £5.00
Delicious complexity and dry-to-finish styling in this wine, which carries compelling tannins, firm and savoury. Superstores only.

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet and rich. Great with Indian food.

Lost Pampas Cabernet Malbec 1999, Co-op 14 £3.00

Mission Peak Argentine Red NV 15.5 £3.50

Valentin Bianchi Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 16 £7–10
Very big and rich and soft and gently spicy with big tannins.

Weinert Malbec 1994 16 £7–10
Again, the superb creamy tannins of Argentina give the wine distinctive richness

M & S RED

Canale Estate Reserve Merlot 1999 16 £7–10
Curious celery undertone to the finish which displays great tannic virtuosity. A wonderful food wine: game, rare meats, cheeses (especially ripe cheddar).

Rio Santos Bonarda Barbera 2000 14.5 £5.00
Cinnamon-edged cherries and plums.

Rio Santos Cabernet Sauvignon Syrah 2000 15.5 £5.00
Coriander-edged blackberries, plums and some dried raspberry. Delicious approachable Cabernet.

Rio Santos Malbec 2000 16.5 £5.00
Superbly structured and brilliantly textured. Cassis, hint of chocolate, touch of cappuccino.

San Pablo Estate NV 16 £7–10
Very smooth delivery of effortlessly produced sensations of soft fruits coated with ripe tannins. A superb blend of grapes offering boldness, dexterity and brilliant texture

Villar Cortes Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15.5 £7–10
A big juicy Cab driven by the plums rather than the tannins

MORRISONS RED

Balbi Barbaro 1997 16 £7–10
A treat for rich game dishes. The fruit is packed with flavour from raspberries to spiced prunes – and the tannins are electric.

Balbi Malbec 1999 15.5 £5.00
Gripping softness – how amazing! What a paradox! What a puzzle!

Balbi Shiraz 1999 13 £5.00
Intensely jammy.

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet and rich. Great with Indian food

Santa Julia Bonarda Sangiovese 1999 16 £5.00
Superb from nose to throat to brain cells. Enticing savoury aroma, deep rich berries for the tongue and brilliant lingering tannins for the throat.

SAFEWAY RED

Adiseno Reserve Malbec 1999 15 £5–7

Argentinian Bonarda 2000, Safeway 15 £5.00
Warm, rich, gently spicy fruit with a touch of jam but also fine tannins which are wholly wedded to the texture.

Argentinian Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Safeway 14 £5.00
Juicy, jammy, joyous and injudicious – except with spicy food.

Argentinian Syrah 2000, Safeway 15.5 £5.00
Big, exuberant, coffee-edged berries, soft tannins, and a finish of pure chutzpah. Offensively plump and modern.

Caballo de Plata Bonarda/Barbera 2000 13 £3.50

Weinert Malbec 1994 16 £7–10
Again, the superb creamy tannins of Argentina give the wine distinctive richness. 79 stores.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Alamos Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 16.5 £5–7
Compellingly soft yet thickly knitted fruit of huge style and precision. Incredibly well-tailored yet has character and bite. Great class, terrific polish, loads of richness. Selected stores.

Bright Brothers Barrica Cabernet Shiraz 1999 16 £5–7
Comes across like an Aussie with attitude – thanks to the tannins Terrific red wine. Classy, bold, full of character and beguiling fruit. 100 selected stores.

Finca el Retiro Bonarda 2000 14.5 £5–7
Juicy fruity curry wine – with the saving grace of some suave tannins Selected stores

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 14 £3.00
Sweet and rich. Great with Indian food. 180 selected stores.

Mendoza Cabernet Sauvignon/Malbec NV, Sainsbury's 15.5 £5.00
Vibrant juicy fruit with tannins and authority and balance. An excellent quaffing red and a wine for roast vegetables and cheese dishes.

Mendoza Country Red NV, Sainsbury's 15 £2.50

Santa Julia Tempranillo 2000 16 £5.00
Joyously slurpable and worthy (of food, companionship, reflective pursuits). It has softness, stealth and great generosity. Most stores

SOMERFIELD RED

Argentine Red 2000, Somerfield 15 £3.50
Brilliant tippling for the money: dry rich fruit of great charm

Argentine Sangiovese 2000, Somerfield 16.5 £5.00
Superb! If only Chianti could be this thrilling for the money.

Argentine Tempranillo 2000, Somerfield 16 £3.00
Stunning texture and class of fruit for the money.

Argento Malbec 2000 17.5 £5.00
Supremely well-textured and aromatic, complex and dusted with finely wrought tannins, this is simply one of the best wines in the world under a fiver. It delivers such style, class and deliciousness for the money that it seems almost unfair to rate it and thus compare it with reds from France, Italy, Spain, Australia, South Africa and Chile. Most stores

Bright Brothers Barrica Cabernet Shiraz 1999 16 £5–7
Comes across like an Aussie with attitude – thanks to the tannins. Terrific red wine. Classy, bold, full of character and beguiling fruit

Bright Brothers Barrica Shiraz 1999 15.5 £5–7
Chewy coconut and cassis fruit of depth and daring. Selected stores

Bright Brothers San Juan Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 16 £5–7
What depth! What chutzpah!! What fruit!!!

Santa Julia Oaked Tempranillo 2000 16.5 £5.00
Superb tannins, savoury fruit, alert acids, and a wholly integrated performance from nose to throat.

Trivento Syrah 2000 16 £5.00
Very rich with cocoa-coated tannins

SPAR RED

Argentinian Del Sur 1999, Spar 14 £5.00
Meaty richness, decent tannins, some breadth to the fruit and a fair finish.

TESCO RED

Argento Malbec 2000 17.5 £5.00
Supremely well-textured and aromatic, complex and dusted with finely wrought tannins, this is simply one of the best wines in the world under a fiver. It delivers such style, class and deliciousness for the money that it seems almost unfair to rate it and thus compare it with reds from France, Italy, Spain, Australia, South Africa and Chile. Most stores.

Bright Brothers Barrica Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz 1998 15 £5–7

Catena Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 17 £7–10
A quite compellingly concentrated amalgam of very comely Cabernet vegetality and subtle spiciness and big tannins. An excellent bottle for festive lunch (or dinner) where its presence at table will be more amusing, and more explosive, than the funniest Christmas cracker. Available at the 25 Wine Advisor Stores only.

Deep Purple Shiraz 2000 14 £5.00
Love the tannins, not sure about the fruit (and the bottle which is distracting). Most stores.

Monster Spicy Red Syrah NV, Tesco 16 £5.00
Rampant, ripe, rich and very ready for anything the spiciest chef can throw at it, this is an affront to the palate of the stuffy connoisseur but for easy drinking, quaffability and for matching with meat and cheese dishes this is a terrific wine

Picajuan Peak Bonarda 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely texture here which properly knits the meaty fruit, the fine acids and the rich tannins so well together.

Picajuan Peak Malbec 2000, Tesco 15 £5.00
Lovely savoury soupiness saved from stupidity by superb tannins and succulent rich fruit. Most stores

Picajuan Peak Sangiovese 2000, Tesco 14.5 £5.00

Better than many a Chianti with the same grape. Has a fine texture to it and well-integrated fruit and tannins

Q Tempranillo 1998 16.5 £7–10
This is what more Riojas should be like: energetic, rich, tobacco-tinged, deep, jammy but dry, and full of flavoursome layers of surprises.

Santa Julia Bonarda/ Sangiovese Reserva 1999 15 £5–7
Very rich fruit, good for spicy food. Selected stores.

Santa Julia Merlot Oak Aged 2000 15.5 ~£5.00
Lovely ripe tannins and cherry/ plum fruit. Delicious quaffing. Selected stores

Santa Julia Oaked Tempranillo 2000 16.5 ~£5.00
Superb tannins, savoury fruit, alert acids, and a wholly integrated performance from nose to throat.

WAITROSE RED

Balbi Malbec Reserva, Mendoza 1999 14 £5–7
Super ripe richness. Good with spicy food.

Familia Zuccardi Q Merlot 1998 16 £7–10
Delicious cheeky, classy ripeness and smokey tannins. Mail Order only.

Finca el Retiro Malbec, Mendoza 2000 16.5 £5–7
Terrific textured plums and ripe blackcurrants. Good tannins and a rousing savoury finish.

Santa Julia Bonarda/ Sangiovese 2000 17 ~£5.00
Utterly superb. Wondrous richness and tannic tenacity. Fantastic bargain.

Trivento Sangiovese, Mendoza 2000 14 ~£5.00
Thick as jam

ASDA WHITE

Argentinian White NV, Asda 14 ~£3.50

Argento Chardonnay 2000 17 ~£5.00
More convincing than many a Meursault at five times the price for it parades fruit of great finesse yet determined flavour and poised ripeness. A delicious, high class wine of charm and distinctiveness.

Candela Viognier 2000 15 £5–7
Since I danced under a full moon (in the vineyard) with this wine's maker, do not suppose I am fatally compromised – alas. It has a fine apricot opening, some middling peachy fruit, and a hint of tangy lemon on the finish. It offers more class than my dancing style.

Far Flung Viognier 2000 16.5 ~£5.00

Beautiful dry apricot fruit with a touch of crème brulée on the finish or is it gunsmoke? Well, it's a delicate beauty for all that but a hugely elegant aperitif.

BOOTHS WHITE

Libertad Chenin Sauvignon 2000 13 £5.00
Very dry and a touch reluctant

Terrazas Alto Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £9.
Touches of cloying melon. Needs spicy food.

BUDGENS WHITE

Argento Chardonnay 2001 15.5 £5.00
Not as gripping as the 2000 but still has classy texture and layered fruit. Almost lazy elegance about it.

Etchart Rio de Plata Torrontes/ Chardonnay 2000 12 £5.00
Bit raw on the finish.

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious little aperitif with lemon and pistachio nuts.

CO-OP WHITE

Balbi Shiraz Rosé 2000 13 £5.00
Rich and sticky

Bright Brothers Viognier Reserve 1999 13 £5.

Elsa Semillon Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Nervously crisp edge of some wit. Good with food. Superstores only.

Etchart Rio de Plata Torrontes 2000 13.5 £5.00
Utterly delicious grapey aperitif Really lovely set up prior to a meal. Superstores only.

First Ever Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5.00

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious little aperitif with lemon and pistachio nuts.

Lost Pampas Oaked Chardonnay 1999, Co-op 16 £5.00
Lovely nutty fruit, chewy and fresh, hint of lettuce crispness.

Mission Peak Argentine White NV 13.5 £3.50

Y2K Chardonnay, San Juan 1999 16 £5.00
Very fresh – saves its melon richness for the back of the throat

M & S WHITE

Rio Santos Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00
A precise, crisp, aperitif style, subtle grapey white

MORRISONS WHITE

Etchart Rio de Plata Torrontes/ Chardonnay 2000 12 £5.00
Bit raw on the finish

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious little aperitif with lemon and pistachio nuts.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Argentinian Chardonnay 1999, Safeway 16 £5.00
Delightful union of buttery ripeness, and melon and pineapple acidity.

Caballo de Plata Shiraz/Malbec Rosada 2000 15.5 £5.00
Very interesting and unusual rosé of thickly textured cherries and plum. Has a jammy tone mitigated by good acids and overall dryness.

Caballo de Plata Torrontes 2000 13.5 £3.50

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious little aperitif with lemon and pistachio nuts.

Mendoza Chardonnay, Tupungato Region NV, Sainsbury's 15 £5.00
Dry, elegant, restrained, underripe but with a slightly oily texture which is fluid on the finish and reminiscent of nuts and melon. Most stores.

Mendoza Country White NV, Sainsbury's 14.5 £3.50

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Argentine Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield 15.5 £5.00
Deliciously textured, slightly buttery fruit. Very classy and dry.

Bright Brothers San Juan Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.7
Rich creamy consistency without being cloying

Etchart Torrontes Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Amusing nutty, grapey aperitif wine.

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious little aperitif with lemon and pistachio nuts. Selected stores

Q Chardonnay, La Agricola 1999 15.5 £7.10
Bitter almonds, underripe gooseberry, melon and lemon. Class act. Selected stores.

Santa Julia Syrah Rosé 2001 15 £5.00
Lovely dry cherries.

SPAR WHITE

Argentinian Del Sur 2000, Spar 14 – £5.00
Meaty richness and ripeness. Good with chicken dishes. Individual taste as it finishes.

TESCO WHITE

Argentinian Torrontes 1999, Tesco 13 – £3.50

Argento Chardonnay 2000 17 – £5.00
More convincing than many a Meursault at five times the price for it parades fruit of great finesse yet determined flavour and poised ripeness. A delicious, high-class wine of charm and distinctiveness

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 – £5.00
Delicious little aperitif with lemon and pistachio nuts.

Picajuan Peak Chardonnay 2000, Tesco 15.5 – £5.00
Lovely balance of elements which strike warmly yet refreshingly showing melon, pear and lemon. Real bargain quaffing here. Most stores

Seriously Fruity Rosé NV, Tesco 14.5 £5.00
Curiously, not as fruity as it sounds though ideally suited to rich food. Most stores.

WAITROSE WHITE

Bodega Lurton Pinot Gris, Mendoza 2000 15 – £5.00
Delicious edge of peach, cobnut, and lemon and gooseberry on the finish

Catena Agrelo Vineyards Chardonnay 1999 15 £7–10
Very ripe and rich and in need of ripe rich food.

Chenin Blanc/ Torrontes, Mendoza 2000, Waitrose 14 – £5.00
Very dry and calm – almost too calm. Unspicy but has some elegance to the texture.

Santa Julia Viognier Reserve 2000 16 £5–7
Brilliant apricot dryness and concentrated texture.

Trivento Chardonnay 2000 14 – £5.00
Very rich and gooey.

AUSTRALIA

To the horror of the French, it's breathing down their necks in the race to dominate the UK wine market.

ASDA RED

Andrew Peace Cabernet Merlot 1999 15 £5–7

Fox River Pinot Noir 1998 13 £5–7

Houghtons Shiraz 1998 15 £5–7

La Nature Organic Shiraz Cabernet 1999 13.5 £5.00
Mingles jammy berries with gravy-edged tannins. Suits game dishes.

Maglieri Shiraz 1998 15.5 £7–10

Normans Estates Lone Gum Cabernet Merlot 2000 12 £3.00
Very sweet and adolescent.

Normans Estates Pinot Noir 1999 10 £5–7
Almost without varietal expression.

Normans Estates Yarra Valley Cabernet 1998 14 £7–10
Very ripe and forward and in need of robust food.

Secession Xanadu Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 15 £5–7
Brilliant spicy juice. A textured curry wine

Temple Bruer Shiraz/Malbec 1998 16.5 £5–7
A wonderfully adult blend of rich jammy Shiraz and dry, tannic Malbec. The marriage is harmonious and energetic, food-friendly and deliciously deep.

The Potts Family Bleasdale Malbec 2000 13 £5–7
Very juicy and ripe and ultimately fails to clinch more points because of the looseness of the finish which flops over the taste buds rather than gripping them.

Vine Vale Grenache 1998 (Peter Lehmann) 15 £5–7

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £7–10
Big rich curry wine. Joyous, jolly, jammy.

Wyndham Estate Bin 444 Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 13 £5–7
Nice compactness and elegance here.

BOOTHS RED

Australian Red Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Booths 14 £5.00

Brown Brothers Tarrango 2000 13 £5.00
Like fruit juice.

CV Capel Vale Shiraz 1998 14.5 £7–10
Very vivacious, spicy fruit. Huge fun for non-serious food - pity about the serious price tag.

d'Arenberg d'Arrys Original Shiraz/ Grenache 1998 14 £7–10

Ironstone Shiraz Grenache 1998 15.5 £5–7
Sweet and jammy and full of fruit but has some depth and daring to its tannins. Very delicious textured richness to the finish.

Knappstein Cabernet Franc 1998 15 £7–10

Marktree Premium Red 1999 15 £5.00
Lovely energy to the tannins which stud the ripe chocolate fruit, giving it backbone.

Oxford Landing Merlot 1999 14 £5–7
Rich yet sweet - a paradox achieved by a marriage of tannins and ripe berries.

Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 15 £10–13

Rosemount Estate Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 14 £5–7
Usual soft red gunge from Rosemount. Has some tannins, though, this vintage.

The Seven Surveys Peter Lehmann 1998 16 £5–7
This Mourvedre, Shiraz, Grenache blend is strikingly forward, ripe and ready, with a grand soupiness mitigated by gracious tannins resulting in a lovely warm, soft, yielding texture.

BUDGENS RED

Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13.5 £5–7
Classy stuff here, good tannins dancing excellent and supple attendance on blackcurrants and plums.

Oxford Landing Yalumba Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000 14.5 £5–7
Firm texture, adhesive and hedgerow-fruited. Has a good surge of flavour on the finish.

Penfolds Bin 35 Rawsons Retreat Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 16 £5–7
Hints of tobacco and chocolate to the rich fruit which has attacking tannins, gripping and stylish. Decanted and left to breathe for several hours, this wine will fool many people into considering it

to be legendary, highly expensive and . . . to live for.

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet 2000 13 £2–10
Not as vibrant as I recall from previous vintages and the tannins are subdued. The price retains its richness, though.

Wynns Coonawarra Shiraz 1998 15 £5–7
Classy, minerally fruit, harmonising berries and very soft tannins.

CO-OP RED

Andrew Peace Masterpeace Shiraz 2000 13 £5–7
This bold pun has more chutzpah than rationality for the tannins have gone walkabout. Not at Convenience Stores.

Australian Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Co-op 13 £5.00
If this is Cabernet I'm a wall-eyed wallaby . . .

Australian Grenache 2000, Co-op 13.5 £3.00
Very juicy and ripe.

Australian Merlot 2000, Co-op 14 £5.00
Ripe plums with a touch of savoury tannin.

Australian Merlot 2001, Co-op 15.5 £5.00
The new vintage is firmer, more resplendently tannic, and has lovely depth.

Brown Brothers Tarrango 1999 13.5 £5–7

Deakin Select Merlot 1999 14 £5–7
Rather expensive but held together well on the finish by the fleshiness of the plums and the tannins.

E & E Black Pepper Shiraz 1996 16 £20+
Complex perfume of tea, chocolate and very subtle cinnamon. The fruit is very tufted and textured but ultimately polished and unturbulent, but £27? It's a lot of money. But this is a lot of wine. It is rugged yet refined. Superstores only.

Hardys Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 16 £7–10
Expensive but has a touch of the 'treat' about it with its firm, rich tannins, tightly evolved blackcurrants and delicious cherries and strawbs. Has a classy finish withal. Superstores only.

Jacaranda Hill Shiraz 2000, Co-op 13 £5.00
Very ripe and fruit-juicy

Leasingham Cabernet Sauvignon/Malbec 1996 16.5 £7–10
The marriage of the wood, fruit and tannins is a sensual ménage à trois of guile and gutsiness. Superstores only.

Lindemans Cawarra Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 13 £5.00

Bruised juicy fruit. Not at Convenience Stores.

Little Boomey Cabernet Merlot 2000 15 £5–7
Has some toasted, nutty edges to the fruit, courtesy of the tannins, and the blackberries and plums come through nicely.

Rosemount Estate Grenache/Shiraz 2000 13 £5–7
So juicy! Superstores only.

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet 2000 13 £7–10
Not as vibrant as I recall from previous vintages and the tannins are subdued. The price retains its richness, though. Superstores only.

KWIK SAVE RED

Australian Dry Red 2000, Somerfield 13 £5.00
Simple curry red.

Australian Shiraz Cabernet 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Good, basic quaffing: plummy and ripe and not too sweet.

Banrock Station Shiraz/Mataro 2000 15 £5.00
Tobacco, raspberries and plums. Knock it back.

M & S RED

Cabernet/Shiraz 1999 12 £5–7
Too sweet for me. Or six quid.

Clare Valley Merlot/ Cabernet Sauvignon/ Cabernet Franc/Malbec 1998 13 £7–10
More sweet Aussie fruit. The tannins are bright in this specimen, at least, so you get some mild excitement but not eight quids' worth.

Honey Tree Cabernet Merlot 2000 13 £5–7
The tannins are mildly savoury and delicious but the fruit calls the tune – and it makes fine listening (and quaffing).

Honey Tree Shiraz Cabernet 2000 13 £5–7
Very sweet and fruity in a way which leaves little to the imagination.

Honey Tree Grenache Shiraz 1999 13 £5–7

Honey Tree Reserve Pinot Noir 1999 14 £7–10
Good dry style, good dusky tannins, charming ripe cherries.

Honey Tree Shiraz Reserve 1998 14 £7–10

Lenbridge Forge Pinot Noir 2000 12 £7–10
Struggles to please me but obviously not M&S. Nine quid? Too juicy on the finish, surely.

SE Australian Shiraz 1999 13 £5–7

Shiraz Merlot Ruby Cabernet Bin 312 2000 13 £5.00
An Aussie Beaujolais – but much

tastier. That's the full, rich, jazzy style anyway.

South East Australian Cabernet 2000 16.5 £5.00
Has everything: sexy price tag, sensual texture, inviting perfume, lovely body, and terrific conversation. Irresistible stuff here.

South East Australian Merlot 2000 15.5 £5.00
Merlots don't come much softer, subtler or better value than this.

South Eastern Australian Shiraz 2000 14.5 £5.00
Plummy yet dry and stylish.

Twin Wells Heathcote Shiraz 1999 16 £7.10
A delicious feminist Shiraz of striking Germaine Greer fruitiness and intellectual ripeness. Yep You've guessed. I drank the bottle and got so pissed I wrote the first words which came into my head. So be warned. This wine is too easy to love.

MORRISONS RED

Barramundi Shiraz/ Merlot NV 15.5 £5.00

Brown Brothers Barbera 1998 13.5 £5.7
Bit expensive for the style.

Cranswick Cabernet Merlot 1999 15.5 £5.00
Real depth and vibrancy, spice and lingering fruit.

Hardys Cabernet Shiraz Merlot 1998 15 £5.7

Lindemans Bin 45 Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15 £5.2

'M' Australian Shiraz Cabernet NV 10 £5.00

Nottage Hill Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz 1999 16.5 £5.7
Under six quid, one of Aussie's best big red wine bargains Thrilling tannins and subtle spiciness.

Tortoiseshell Bay Mourvedre Shiraz 2000 12 £5.00
What a sweet wine! Needs curry – urgently.

Wakefield Shiraz Cabernet 2000 16 £5.7
Spice, depth, complexity, savoury tannins - has it all. Plus a layered finish of great tenacity

Woolpunda Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13.5 £5.00
Soft, chocolate richness here Very chewy and deep.

Yellow Tail Shiraz 2000 15.5 £5.00
Terrific buzzy fruit, hint of spice, lovely warm tannins, and real personality on the finish.

SAFEWAY RED

Annies Lane Cabernet/ Merlot 1999 13.5 £7.10
Selected stores

Australian Oaked Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Safeway 14.5 £5.00

Australian Oaked Shiraz 1999, Safeway 14 £5.00

Australian Shiraz 1999, Safeway 15 £5.00

Clancy's Shiraz/ Cabernet Sauvignon/ Merlot/Cabernet Franc 1998 17 £7–10
Perfection at its peak – almost. Will it rate higher if cellared and left to mature? How can it? It has wonderfully integrated generous tannins and plum/cherry/ blackberry fruit.

CV Capel Vale Shiraz 1998 14.5 £7–10
Very vivacious, spicy fruit. Huge fun for non-serious food - pity about the serious price tag.

Endeavour Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 12 £7–10
Selected stores

Evans & Tate Shiraz 1999 16 £7–10
Very classy and deep, lovely soft tannins, good spicy berries and a fine overall texture of style and substance

Hardys Stamp Shiraz/ Cabernet 2000 13 £5.00
Dry and mutely expressive on the finish.

Hardys Tintara Shiraz 1998 13 £7–10
Overpriced by 300%. Selected stores.

Haselgrove 'Bentwing' Shiraz, Wrattonbully 1999 12 £7–10
Too jammy for nine quid. Selected stores

Haselgrove 'H' Cabernet Sauvignon/ Merlot 1998 15 £13–20
In spite of the tannins, the sweet finish is destined for Indian food. Selected stores

Haselgrove Shiraz, McLaren Vale 1999 13 £7–10
More Oz juice. Selected stores.

Jindalee Merlot 2000 12 £5.00
Selected stores

Jindalee Shiraz 2000 13 £5.00
Selected stores.

Masterpiece Shiraz Malbec 2000 11 £5–7
Oh come! A masterpiece? Selected stores

Metala Langhorne Creek Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15.5 £7–10
Interesting complexity involving liquorice and mint, but the sweetness limits the tannins and restricts the wine to spicy foods

Ninth Island Pinot Noir, Tasmania 1999 11 £7–10

Normans Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc 1996 14 £7–10

Juicy and dry. Give it another year in bottle. Selected stores

Penfolds Bin 128 Coonawarra Shiraz 1998 13.5 £7–10
Jammy edge doesn't get resolved by the tannins to the extent that ten pounds is wisely spent here. Selected stores

Penfolds Organic Merlot Shiraz Cabernet 1998 15.5 £7–10

Peter Lehmann The Barossa Shiraz 1998 12 £5–7
Oh, it's so savoury and ripe yet so elegantly purposeful. A quite gorgeous artefact providing rivulets of rich flavours.

Rosemount Estate Grenache/Shiraz 2000 13 £5–7
So juicy!

Rosemount Estate Merlot 1999 15 £7–10
Very soft and ripe and suited to meats preceded by poppadums and pickles.

Rosemount 'Hill of Gold' Shiraz, Mudgee 1998 17.5 £7–10
At last! A Rosemount red with world-class tannins. And it's under a tenner. Beautifully well-knit fruit here, totally captivating, and the texture is gripping, grand, and you feel greedy for more.

Rosemount Shiraz 1999 14.5 £7–10
Less juicy attack than previous vintages, it has some gentle tannins to give it bite

Tatachilla Breakneck Creek Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 13.5 £5–7
Selected stores.

Tatachilla Foundation Shiraz 1998 13.5 £13–20
Very ripe and a touch over-reaching for sixteen quid.

Tatachilla Padthaway Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 16 £7–10
Lovely tangy richness underpins the dry blackcurrants and plums and it's all well held together by firm tannins. Selected stores

Tatachilla Shiraz 1999 15 £7–10
Some alertness here to both fruit and tannins. Selected stores

Wakefield Promised Land Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 12 £5–7
Selected stores.

Wirrega Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon/ Petit Verdot 1999 16 £5–7
Terrific mineral aroma, jammy fruit, nice simple tannins. An unpretentiously delicious specimen.

Wirrega Vineyards Shiraz 1999 13 £5–7
Very juicy.

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £7–10

Big rich curry wine. Joyous, jolly, jammy.

Woolshed Cabernet/ Shiraz/Merlot, Coonawarra 1998 15 £5–7
Stunning richness and textured, tangy fruit of huge depth and charm. Multi-layered and magnificently mouth-watering. Top 220 stores.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Australian Shiraz NV, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5.00
Middling fruit which struggles to offer a fiver's worth of value.

Banrock Station Mataro Shiraz NV, (3 litre box) 15 £5.00
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Hardys Stamp Cabernet Merlot 2000 13.5 £5.00
Soft, ripe, obvious, lush. Alcoholic fruit juice, you might term it

Jacobs Creek Reserve Shiraz 1998 14 £7–10
Rather expensive, if displaying some meaty ripeness, and very good for casseroles and cheese dishes. 170 selected stores.

Nottage Hill Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz 1999 16.5 £5–7
Under six quid, one of Aussie's best big red wine bargains. Thrilling tannins and subtle spiciness.

Petaluma Bridgewater Mill Shiraz 1998 16.5 £7–10
Very chewy, coal-edged texture, deep and rich and softly spicy. Lovely rich plums, blackcurrants and a touch of leather. Delicious tannins, too, so it has backbone and bite. 180 stores.

Rosemount Estate Shiraz 1998 15.5 £7–10

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £7–10
Big rich curry wine. Joyous, jolly, jammy.

SOMERFIELD RED

Australian Shiraz Cabernet 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Good, basic quaffing: plummy and ripe and not too sweet.

Banrock Station Shiraz/Mataro 2000 15 £5.00
Tobacco, raspberries and plums. Knock it back.

Encounter Bay Merlot 1999 13 £5–7
Ribena

Encounter Bay Shiraz 1999 13.5 £5–7
Ribena with rusticity. Good with Tandoori hedgehog

Hardys Nottage Hill Cabernet Sauvignon/ Shiraz 1999 16.5 £5–7
Under six quid, one of Aussie's

best big red wine bargains. Thrilling tannins and subtle spiciness.

Hardys Tintara Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 13 £7–10
Sweet but tempered by rich tannins into something resembling wine.

Jacobs Creek Grenache Shiraz 2000 13.5 £5.00
Usual sweet young thing. Needs lots of chillies.

Jacobs Creek Merlot 13 £5–7
[illegible]
Sweet, and pricey into the bargain (lack of).

Jindalee Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 14 £5.00
Ripe plums, some juicy tannins, a suggestion of backbone to the finish.

Lindemans Cawarra Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 13 £5.00
Bruised juicy fruit.

Masterpeace Red 2000 11 £5.00
Such tannin-forsaken sweetness! Selected stores.

Normans Estates Lone Gum Cabernet Merlot 2000 12 £5.00
Very sweet and adolescent.

Normans Old Vines Shiraz 1999 16.5 £5–7
This is how it should be! Bold berried fruit up to its neck in brilliant uncluttered tannins.

Omrah Plantagenet Shiraz 1999 14 £7–10
Usual Aussie juice with a touch more earth than normal. Expensive though!

Penfolds Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz 1998 15 £7–10
Spicy, rich, layered, dry yet full of fruit, urgent-edged tannins – this is typical Aussie Shiraz in many respects except the herbs on the finish.

Penfolds Koonunga Hill Shiraz 1999 15 £5–7
Good solid branding. That's what we want, isn't it?

Rosemount Estate Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 14 £5–7
Usual soft red gunge from Rosemount. Has some tannins, though, this vintage.

Secession Xanadu Shiraz Cabernet 2000 14 £5–7
Has some texture and even – so daringly! – tannins. Selected stores

Tortoiseshell Bay Mourvedre Shiraz 2000 12 £5.00
What a sweet wine! Needs curry – urgently.

Wakefield Promised Land Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 12 £5–7
Selected stores.

SPAR RED

De Bortoli Australian Dry Red 2000, Spar 14 £5.00
Most unusual for an Aussie and all the better for it: character, fruit and tannins.

De Bortoli Shiraz Cabernet 2000, Spar 12 £5.00
Lot of loot for such straightforward fruit.

Normans Unfiltered Grenache 1997 11 £5–7
It may be unfiltered but the baked jamminess of the finish is overwhelmingly toast spreadable rather than throat-luscious

Temple Bruer Cabernet Merlot 1996 16 £7.10
Minty rich berries, fine tannins, a touch of spice and a lovely supple texture.

TESCO RED

Angove's Lock 9 Carignan/Mataro/ Shiraz 2000 10 £5.00
Alcoholic fruit juice. Little character, even less excitement. Most stores.

Angove's Stonegate Barbera 2000 14 £5.00
A brilliant curry wine. Soft and juicy. Most stores.

Australian Cabernet/ Merlot NV, Tesco 15.5 £3.50
Savouriness and fresh fruitiness combine superbly to create bargain richness and food friendliness

Australian Red NV, Tesco 15 £3.50
Jolly simple slurping here. Great texture and soft tannins and some degree of lingering lushness. Terrific barbecue wine (and for BYOB use).

Australian Shiraz NV, Tesco 14 £3.50
Cheap, cheerful, very dry.

Banrock Station Shiraz 2000 14.5 £5.00
Buzzes with flavour and dry plummy fruit.

Banrock Station Shiraz/Mataro 2000 15 £5.00
Tobacco, raspberries and plums. Knock it back.

Barramundi Shiraz/ Merlot NV 15.5 £5.00

Blue Pyrenees Estate Red 1996 14 £10–13

Buckleys Grenache/ Shiraz/Mourvedre 1998 14 £7–10

Casella Carramar Estate Merlot 2000 14 £5.00
Juicy curry wine. Most stores.

Chapel Hill Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 14 £7–10

Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 1997, Tesco 16 £5–7
Superb tangy Cabernet, great tannins, and an excellent example of Coonawarra Cab – it motors with great class and confidence

over the taste buds. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range Most stores

Hardys Stamp Shiraz/ Cabernet 2000 13 £5.00
Dry and mutely expressive on the finish.

Image Cabernet/ Merlot 2000 13.5 £3.00
Like a fruit salad, so rich is it and all-embracing. Has spice too – great for raunchy Balti dishes.

Lindemans Bin 50 Shiraz 1999 16 £5–7
Vibrant yet subtle, dry yet fruitily round, tannic yet softly textured and tellingly tongue-tingling on the finish. Selected stores.

McLaren Vale Grenache 1999, Tesco 13.5 £5–7
Very sweet. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. At most stores

McLaren Vale Shiraz 1999, Tesco 14.5 £5–7
A plump fruity curry red. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. At most stores

Miranda Rovalley Ridge Petit Verdot 2000 14 £5–7
Love the tannins, not so keen on the juicy fruit. Probably best with Lebanese vegetable dishes. Most stores

Oxford Landing Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999 15.5 £5–7
Delicious, simple berries, highly gluggable and smooth. Very polished tannins.

Oxford Landing Merlot 2000 15 £5–7
Delicious, simple berries, highly gluggable and smooth. Very polished tannins.

Penfolds Bin 128 Coonawarra Shiraz 1998 15.5 £7–10
Very elegant tannins here and very toothsome berries beneath. Has classy texture and a ripe savoury finish. Very precise, polished winemaking

Penfolds Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz 1998 15 £7–10
Spicy, rich, layered, dry yet full of fruit, urgent-edged tannins – this is typical Aussie Shiraz in many respects except the herbs on the finish

Penfolds Bin 35 Rawsons Retreat Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 16 £5–7
Hints of tobacco and chocolate to the rich fruit which has attacking tannins, gripping and stylish. Decanted and left to breathe for several hours, this wine will fool many people into considering it to be legendary, highly expensive and . . . to live for. Most stores.

Rosemount Estate Cabernet/Merlot 2000 14 £5–7
Juicy and rich with some compensation from the tannins

Rosemount Estate Grenache/Shiraz 2000 13 £5–7
So juicy!

Rosemount Estate Merlot 1999 15 £7–10
Very soft and ripe and suited to meats preceded by poppadums and pickles. Most stores.

Smithbrook Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc/Petit Verdot 1998 16 £7–10
Claret given soul, heart and lots of soft, fleshy fruit with hard tannic muscles. Claret made on Mars. Selected stores.

St Hallett Faith Barossa Shiraz 1999 15 £7–10
Soft, ripe, berried and highly drinkable with food. The reluctance of the tannins requires it be paired with oriental meat and vegetable dishes rather than roast European meats. Most stores.

Sunstone Fresh Spicy Red NV 12 £5.00

Tim Adams Shiraz 1999 17 £7–10
One of Oz's class acts with its texture, evolved tannins and build-up of exciting textures in the throat. A lovely wine of class and distinction. Unerringly delicious and well-balanced. Great value here considering how obscenely priced some Aussie Shirazes have become. Selected stores.

Wilkie Estate Organic Cabernet Merlot 2000 13 £7–10
Too juicy for nine quid. Selected stores.

Wolf Blass Green Label Shiraz 1999 16 £5–7
Lovely life to the wine, full of itself as well as layers of plums, spice and blackberries, and it's at its most assured and entertaining with rich food and rich company. Most stores

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15.5 £7–10
Big rich curry wine. Joyous, jolly, jammy. Most stores.

Woolpunda Cabérnet Sauvignon 1998 15 £5.00

Woolpunda Merlot 1999 14.5 £5.00
Very warm and generous-hearted. Soft, dry, rich and effortlessly rolling. Selected stores.

Woolpunda Shiraz 1998 16 £5.00
Soft, very cushy fruit of great style and mannered richness. It is wholly without pretension but it does have poise and plummy depths. Most stores.

WAITROSE RED

Brown Brothers Nebbiolo 1996 13 £7–10
Very juicy

Brown Brothers Tarrango 2000 13 £5–7
Like fruit juice.

Charleston Pinot Noir 1998 11 £7–10

Church Block Cabernet Shiraz Merlot, Wirra Wirra Vineyards 1998 15.5 £7–10
Very elegant and polished. Lovely texture to it.

Clancy's Red 1998 15.5 £7–10
Unusually European in feel up front but the sun shines through on the finish. Stylish and rich, dry, complete.

Deakin Estate Merlot, Victoria 2000 15.5 £5–7
Soft leathery fruit, well accoutred with ripe tannins. Warm and friendly.

Eileen Hardy Shiraz 1997 14 £20+
Lot of loot, and not very good value, but very pert acids and good tannins. Will age for several years with distinction. But twenty eight quid?! What's going on in the world?

Fishermans Bend Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13 £5.00
Very sweet.

Garry Crittenden Barbera 'i' 1999 14 £7–10
Wonderful Indian food wine. Like a vinified soft fruit hedgerow.

Greg Norman Shiraz 1999 13 £7–10
Lacks a convincing finish for ten quid.

Jindalee Shiraz 2000 13 £5.00

Katnook Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15.5 £10–13
Delicious tangy minerals, fine tannins, good rich berries with liquorice, and a superb, high class texture. Expensive, yes? Too? Mmm . . .

Ninth Island Pinot Noir, Tasmania 2000 12 £7–10
I wonder if they should grow Pinot in Tasmania

Penfolds Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon/ Shiraz 1999 (organic) 14 £7–10
Has some mild excitement.

Penfolds Grange South Australia Shiraz 1995 14 £20+
The first Grange I've liked. Drink it now. It won't improve. Worth £100? Nope. But the sensuality of the tannins is awesome. Mail Order only.

Peter Lehmann The Barossa Shiraz 1999 16 £7–10
Superb compressed fruit of great class and richness. Lovely texture to the fruit. One of the Barossa's most accomplished Shirazes and, at its price, still a snip.

Rosemount 'Hill of Gold' Cabernet Sauvignon, Mudgee 1998 17.5 £7–10
At last! A Rosemount red with world-class tannins. And it's under a tenner. Beautifully well-knit fruit here, totally captivating, and the texture is gripping, grand, and you feel greedy for more.

Settler's Station Tempranillo 2000 14 £5–7

Unusual style of Tempranillo. There's more cherry in it and less tannin than we are used to.

Tatachilla Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot, McLaren Vale 1998 14 £7–10
Ripe and ready. Even has some tannins

Tatachilla Foundation Shiraz 1998 13.5 £13–20
Very ripe and a touch over reaching for sixteen quid.

Tatachilla Growers Grenache Mataro 1999 14 £5.00
Very rich and curry friendly.

Tea Tree Malbec/Ruby Cabernet 2000 13 £5.00
Juicy and very ripe.

The Angelus Cabernet Sauvignon, Wirra Wirra 1998 16 £13–20
Very elegant and well-structured and beautifully textured. Has warmth yet seriousness with solemnity (unlike, say, so many Cabernet-dominated clarets). An impressive wine of great style.

Yaldara Grenache Reserve, Barossa 1999 13 £5–7

Yellowtail Merlot 2000 12 £5.00
Love the label

ASDA WHITE

Cranswick Nine Pines Vineyard Marsanne 16.5 £5.00
[redacted]
Astonishing value here and surprising level of mature layers of rich, ripe fruit. Textured and taut

Karalta White 1999, Asda 14 £3.50

La Nature Organic Chardonnay Sauvignon 2000 14.5 £5.00
One of the better of the La Nature range which is very much a curate's egg Has some plump peachy fruit with good lemon acids

Peter Lehmann Eden Valley Riesling 1999 16.5 £5–7
Smacks of earth and minerals. Delivers a tangy lemon and gooseberry richness and a lovely, fresh finish. Outstanding.

Rosemount GTR 2001 13.5 £5–7
This is a whacky blend of Gewürztraminer and Riesling, slightly sweet, gently peachy/gooseberryish/pineappley, and in need of a good spread of Chinese food to be at its most agreeable.

Rosemount 'Hill of Gold' Chardonnay, Mudgee 1999 14 £7–10
Not typically Aussie in its subtleties.

Rymill Sauvignon Blanc 1999 15.5 £5–7

Wyndham Estate Bin 222 Chardonnay 1999 16 £5–7
Excellent price for fruit which excels itself in effortlessly providing taste, refinement and

refreshment. Lingering creaminess gives it great food compatibility

BOOTHS WHITE

Capel Vale CV Unwooded Chardonnay 1999 14.5 £7-10
Like a nervous, slightly confused, Chablis.

Capel Vale Verdelho 1999 16 £7-10.
Wonderful concentrated vintage for this warmly-coated, subtly spicy wine.

Château Tahbilk Marsanne 1998 14 £5-7
Young yet beautifully textured, tangy and tremendously minerally yet ripe. Has layers of pineapple, lemon and gooseberry. Will age for eight to ten years.

Cranswick Botrytis Semillon 1996 (half bottle) 15 £10-13

d'Arenberg The Olive Grove Chardonnay, McLaren Vale 2000 16.5 £5-7
Does it have a kind of green olive to the lime and melon fruit? Sheer fantasy I think.

Deakin Estate Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely clash of tangy crispness and soft richness and ripeness.

Ironstone Semillon Chardonnay 1999 16 £5-7
Lovely tangy richness and versatility with food

Marktree White SE Australia 2000 13.5 £5.00
The most unlike-Oz white I've ever tasted: dry, edgy, numb.

Ninth Island Chardonnay 2000 14. £7-10
Elegant, expensive, subtly expressive

Oxford Landing Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely texture to the melon/lemon fruit with a hint of toffee.

Oxford Landing Viognier 2000 14 £5-7.
Delightful apricot and lemon fruit with a fine texture and finesse as it finishes.

Penfolds Bin 21 Rawson's Retreat Semillon/Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Pleasant Thai food white.

Shaw & Smith Sauvignon Blanc 1998 15 £7-10

BUDGENS WHITE

Hardys Nottage Hill Chardonnay 2000 16 £5-7
Lovely lemon/melon – the usual thing – but with added oomph.

Hardys Stamp Grenache Shiraz Rosé 2000 11 £5.00
Lies down on the tongue and

dies.

Jacobs Creek Dry Riesling 2000 15 £5–7
Delicious young fruit (which will develop more nuances if cellared for a couple of years). Has really balanced, highly attractive charms

Oxford Landing Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely texture to the melon/lemon fruit with a hint of toffee.

Penfolds Koonunga Hill Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
One of Oz's finest brands pity it's gone over a fiver.

Rosemount Semillon/Chardonnay 2000 15 £5–7
Delicious tanginess and melon ripeness undercut by fresh lemon.

White Pointer 2000 13 £5.00

CO-OP WHITE

Australian Chardonnay 2000, Co-op 15.5 £5.00
Deliciously lemony. Has great charm and crisp delivery of fresh fruit.

Barramundi Semillon/Chardonnay NV 16 £5.00
Simply delicious from nose to throat – lovely, fresh fruit here.

Bethany Chardonnay 1998 16 £5–7
The extra year of maturity has added layers of interest. It has a gorgeous aroma of cooking butter, the fruit is ripe and nutty, the finish brings in lime, butter and almonds. Nice lingering vegetality. Superstores only.

Bethany Riesling 2001 16 £5–7
Lovely lemons and touches of apricot and lime – but better if cellared beyond five or six years when it will be even more sensational. Superstores only.

Brown Brothers Late Harvested Orange Muscat & Flora 2000 (half bottle) 16 £5–7
One of Australia's great dessert-style wines. Has fresh thyme-honey richness offset by prim acids of a lemony tonality. Superstores only

Hardys Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 1998 15 £5–7

Jacaranda Hill Semillon 2000, Co-op 13 £5.00

Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5.00
Superbly subtle riches and striking cleanness of tonality. A benchmark fiver's worth of New World Sauvignon: crisp and fresh and biting without being remotely tart or too dry. Superstores only.

Rosemount Estate GTR 2000 15 £5–7
Drink in the context of oriental food and the sweet perfume of exotic fruit is well-tempered. Superstores only.

Yellow Tail 14.5 ~£5.00
Chardonnay 2000
Label of the year certainly but fruit of the year? Well, it's bright and breezy, the flippant side of the grape. Not at Convenience Stores.

KWIK SAVE WHITE

Banrock Station 14 ~£5.00
Colombard
Chardonnay 2001
Tangy, nutty, nice.

M & S WHITE

Australian 12 ~£3.50
Chardonnay/Semillon/
Colombard 2000
Lacks punch, polish and pertinacity.

Chardonnay Bin 109 15.5 ~£5.00
2000
Lovely gooseberry touches to underripe melon, hint of radish, crisp finish. For all that, it's a subtle wine not to be taken with spicy food.

Honey Tree 15 £5–7
Gewürztraminer
Riesling 2000
Off-dry melon, sweet raspberry and lemon fruit – a good candidate for spicy oriental food.

Honey Tree Semillon 15 £5–7
Chardonnay 2000
Very mildly rich, soft-toned quaffer with touches of dry honey, melon and lemon.

McLean's Farm 13 £7–10
Riesling, St Hallett 2000
Interesting potential here (more achievable if the wine had been screwcapped instead of relying on cork). It has some interesting minerally touches which need more bottle age. I'd cellar it for three to seven years more and achieve 17 points possibly

Semillon Bin 381 2000 16 ~£5.00
Delicious layered richness offering dryness, freshness and soft fruit touches and fine pineapple acids. Faint smoky finish.

South Eastern 16 ~£5.00
Australian Chardonnay
2000
Great under-a-fiver Chardonnay here; has elegance, bite, personality and class

Tumbarumba 14.5 £7–10
Chardonnay 1998
Good for Thai food

MORRISONS WHITE

Barramundi Semillon/ 16 ~£5.00
Chardonnay NV
Simply delicious from nose to throat – lovely, fresh fruit here.

Cranswick Estate 16 ~£5.00
Botrytis Semillon 1999
(half bottle)
Considering its age it's amazingly complex and well developed. It

has waxy ripe fruit of sweetness and honeyed depth, superb acids (which will enable it to age well for ten years and beyond), and it's a great value dessert wine.

Jindalee Chardonnay 1998 16 £5.00
Compelling richness and lemony elegant buttery fruit. Beautiful balance and precision.

Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 2000 16 £5.00
Touch more fatness to the fruit in this vintage. Still one of Oz's great, and great value, brands.

Nottage Hill Chardonnay 1999 16 £5.00
Almost in the same league as Lindeman's. Perhaps its true score should be sixteen and three quarters.

Oxford Landing Viognier 2000 16 £5–7
Delightful apricot and lemon fruit with a fine texture and finesse as it finishes.

Penfolds Koonunga Hill Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
One of Oz's finest brands pity it's gone over a fiver.

Penfolds Rawsons Retreat Semillon/ Chardonnay/ Colombard 1999 14 £5.00
A fish stew wine of no subtlety but easygoing, bruised-fruit richness

Rosemount Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
Rich yet subtle. Superb class.

Rosemount Estate GTR 15 £5–7
[illegible]
Drink in the context of oriental food and the sweet perfume of exotic fruit is well tempered.

Rothbury Cowra Chardonnay 2000 12.5 £5.00
Fat and fleshy.

Stamp Grenache Shiraz 2000 13 £5.00
Cherries. Dry cherries.

Tortoiseshell Bay Sauvignon Semillon 2000 13.5 £5.00
Subdued on the finish.

Wakefield Unwooded Chardonnay 2001 13 £5–7
Very ripe and fulsomely expressive.

Yellow Tail Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5.00
Label of the year certainly but fruit of the year? Well, it's bright and breezy, the flippant side of the grape.

Yellow Tail Verdelho 2001 15.5 £5.00
Interesting lip-smacking lemon fruit with hints of spice.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Alkoomi Riesling, Frankland River 2000 14.5 £7–10
Curious translation of German –

but will develop in five years. Selected stores.

Alkoomi Sauvignon Blanc, Frankland River 2000 14 £7–10
Very dry and hugely cellar-worthy. Wait three or four years for it to be so much more complex and rich. Selected stores

Annie's Lane Semillon, Clare Valley 1999 15.5 £5–7

Bleasdale Verdelho, Langhorne Creek 2000 15 £5–7
Touch of warm spice to the perfectly textured richness. Good with mildly spicy Thai food.

Capel Vale CV Unwooded Chardonnay 1999 14.5 £7–10
Like a nervous, slightly confused, Chablis.

CV Chenin Blanc 2000 16 £5–7
Deliciously richly textured and gently smoky. Perfect for garlic scallops and clams.

Endeavour Barrel-fermented Chardonnay, Limestone Coast 1999 14 £7–10
Ripe and ready for Thai food. Selected stores

Hardys Tintara Chardonnay 2000 14 £7–10
Overpriced by pounds. Selected stores

Haselgrove 'H' Chardonnay 1999 14.5 £7–10
Very rich on the finish. Good with spicy food. Selected stores.

Jindalee Chardonnay 2000 16 £5.00
Simply delightful and layered. gooseberries, melons and pears and subtle lemons. A lovely mouthful of assertiveness yet restraint. Good texture, too.

Leasingham Bin 7 Riesling, Clare Valley 2000 13.5 £5–7
Wait four or five years for the petrol to flow. It's numb right now. The screwcap ensures freshness and wonderful development in bottle to, perhaps, eighteen points in 2008. Selected stores.

Loxton Low Alcohol Chardonnay (1.2% vol) 11 £3.50

Mamre Brook Chardonnay 1999 16 £5–7
Terrific pulsating melon richness. Yet it's balanced and sane.

Nepenthe Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £7–10
Lingers lushly yet freshly and offers great finely-knitted acids.

Penfolds Bin 21 Rawson's Retreat Semillon/Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Pleasant Thai food white.

Peter Lehmann 'The Barossa' Semillon 1999 16.5 £5–7
I love the way this Semillon

graduates its fruit, by nuances, and finishes with great wit.

Peter Lehmann Vine Vale Riesling, Barossa Valley 2000 16.5 ~£5.00
Magnificent limey, peachy, melony richness with haunting, minerally acids and a brilliant thick texture. Remarkable wine for the money.

Robertson Barrel Fermented Colombard 1999 13 ~£5.00

Rosemount Estate Show Reserve Chardonnay 1999 16 £7–10
Gorgeous gentle creamy finish, fine acids, good melon/lemon richness. A very good class of Chard.

Rosemount Show Reserve Chardonnay 1998 15 £7–10

Tatachilla Breakneck Creek Chardonnay 2000 16.5 ~£5.00
Superb texture, oily and rich, and a complex finish. This is an amazing white wine for the money.

Tatachilla Chardonnay Adelaide Hills 1999 15.5 £7–10
Very controlled, dry, classy and charming. Has a luxurious, subtle feel to it. Selected stores

Tatachilla Padthaway Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
Lovely strident richness, creamy and ripe, which stays fat without being over-the-top. Lingering lushness with a dry edge to the rich finish. Selected stores

Wakefield Promised Land Unwooded Chardonnay, Clare Valley 2000 13 £5–7
Very odd opulence to it. As if confected. Selected stores.

Wakefield St Andrew Chardonnay, Clare Valley 1998 14 | £13–20
I'd be inclined to cellar it for three or four years to allow its vegetal side to develop and become like Burgundy. Selected stores

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Australian Chardonnay NV, Sainsbury's 15.5 ~£5.00
Very ripe, very rich, very very Ozzie

Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay Semillon (3 litre box) 15 ~£5.00
Delicious plump, ripe fruit with a fresh undertone of lemon. A brilliantly refreshing tipple of some class. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 ~£5.00
Superbly subtle riches and striking cleanness of tonality. A benchmark fiver's worth of New World Sauvignon: crisp and fresh

and biting without being remotely tart or too dry. Most stores.

Penfolds Botrytis Semillon 1998 (half bottle) 15 £5–7

Rosemount Estate GTR 2000 15 £5–7
Drink in the context of oriental food and the sweet perfume of exotic fruit is well-tempered. Selected stores.

Rosemount Estate Show Reserve Chardonnay 1999 16 £7–10
Gorgeous gentle creamy finish, fine acids, good melon/lemon richness. A very good class of Chard. Selected stores.

Stowells of Chelsea Australian Chardonnay NV (3 litre box) 15.5 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Banrock Station Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Brilliant wine for spicy food. Has textured ripeness and depth.

Banrock Station Colombard Chardonnay 2001 14 £5.00
Tangy, nutty, nice.

Cudgee Creek Chardonnay Colombard 2000 16 £5.00
Brilliant value pear, pineapple, lychee and raspberry.

Deakin Estate Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely clash of tangy crispness and soft richness and ripeness.

Hardys Nottage Hill Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
Lovely lemon/melon – the usual thing – but with added oomph.

Hardys Stamp of Australia Riesling Gewürztraminer 2001 14 £5.00
Good with Thai dishes

Hardys Stamp Semillon/Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5.00
Good underripe melon and lemon.

Hardys Tintara Chardonnay 2000 13 £7–10
Overpriced by pounds. Selected stores

Jacobs Creek Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Simple melon and lemon fruit with a nutty undertone of some elegance.

Jindalee Chardonnay 2000 16 £5.00
Simply delightful and layered: gooseberries, melons and pears and subtle lemons. A lovely mouthful of assertiveness yet restraint. Good texture, too.

Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7

Terrific. Over a fiver? Shame about that.

Lindemans Botrytis Riesling 1998 (half bottle) 15 £5–7
Young, sweet, pineappley, honey and lime fruit which is five or six years off its peak.

Lindemans Cawarra Unoaked Chardonnay 2000 14 –£5.00
Shows true quality of rich lemon fruit with no intrusive wood.

Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 –£5.00
Superbly subtle riches and striking cleanness of tonality. A benchmark fiver's worth of New World Sauvignon: crisp and fresh and biting without being remotely tart or too dry

Penfolds Bin 21 Rawson's Retreat Semillon/Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000 14 –£5.00
Pleasant Thai food white.

Penfolds Koonunga Hill Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
One of Oz's finest brands · pity it's gone over a fiver.

Rosemount Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
Rich yet subtle. Superb class Selected stores.

Rosemount Semillon/ Chardonnay 2000 15 £5–7
Delicious tanginess and melon ripeness undercut by fresh lemon.

Shadow Ridge Chardonnay Colombard 2000 15.5 £3.50
Lovely texture to it – and fine dry fruit of the usual recipe

Tortoiseshell Bay Sauvignon Semillon 2000 13.5 –£5.00
Subdued on the finish.

SPAR WHITE

Bleasdale Verdelho 1999 13.5 £5–7
Rather expensive for the style, which is vaguely fat and spicy, but good with Thai food.

De Bortoli Australian Dry White 2000, Spar 13 –£5.00
Very tangy and tartaric acidy.

De Bortoli Australian Semillon Chardonnay 1999, Spar 13.5 –£5.00
Fat, rich fruit of little subtlety but fine with spicy Chinese food.

Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 1999 16.5 –£5.00
Simply one of the tastiest, classiest examples of grape under-a-fiver in the world.

TESCO WHITE

Australian Chardonnay, Tesco 16 £3.50
Terrific value here, fully represented by the exuberance of the blue rollers on the label as much as by the tidal wave of

flavour in the fruit. Lush, loving, warm, delicious

Australian White NV, Tesco 15.5 £3.50
Staggeringly good value: dry, subtle, clean and not OTT and indeed, refreshingly untypical of the style of white wine Australia usually turns out at this price.

Banrock Colombard Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Nice flesh to the fruit which has pear and gooseberry with a distant echo of lime (and, dare I add, a hint of raspberry). A glugging masterpiece of direct fruitiness. Most stores.

Banrock Station Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Brilliant wine for spicy food. Has textured ripeness and depth.

Barramundi Semillon/ Chardonnay NV 16 £5.00
Simply delicious from nose to throat - lovely, fresh fruit here.

Blue Pyrenees Estate Chardonnay 1997 16.5 £10–13
A big sticky wine where sticky butterscotch fruit offers a fruit custard finish of striking texture and tenacity. Not subtle but not OTT either. It's deeply meaningful and looking for a relationship. Wine Advisor stores only

Bonic Estate Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Very ripe, rich and food friendly.

Brown Brothers Dry Muscat 2000 14 £5.00
Very dry and the grapey Muscatiness is a little shy but as an aperitif it works fine.

Great Southern Riesling 2000, Tesco 16.5 £5–7
A monument of tanginess and textured minerality. Not only utterly delicious now, with its elegant citricity, but capable of developing for ten years in bottle and becoming nigh perfect. Brilliant specimen of New World Riesling. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores.

Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay Semillon 2000 15 £5.00
In rich fettle, this established brand. Has a conventional recipe, melon and lemon with a twist, subtle, on the finish. This reveals a faint herbiness.

Hunter Valley Semillon 2000, Tesco 16 £5–7
I love the way the wine takes you one way only to reveal the other side of itself. This is often the way with this grape and here we get lime, gooseberry and melon, and a hint of raspberry, in bewildering array. Delicious bookworm's wine. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores

Image Chardonnay 2000 13 £5.00
'A girly wine' says Tesco. And so it is, although its buyer is a man What he means is that this is a

'girls'-night-out' wine packed in a neon-green bottle and labelled like a soft drink. The fruit is plump and easy going.

Jacobs Creek Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Simple melon and lemon fruit with a nutty undertone of some elegance.

Jacobs Creek Dry Riesling 2000 15 £5.00
Delicious young fruit (which will develop more nuances if cellared for a couple of years). Has really balanced, highly attractive charms

Langhorne Creek Verdelho 2000, Tesco 15 £5-7

Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 2000 16 £5.00
Touch more fatness to the fruit in this vintage. Still one of Oz's great, and great value, brands. Most stores.

Lindemans Cawarra Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely fruit here suggestive of Cox's apples, ripe pears and a touch of Ogen melon. Great quaffing. Not at all stores.

Miranda White Pointer 2000 13.5 £5.00
Nervous, edgy freshness.

Mount Pleasant Elizabeth Semillon 1994 15.5 £7-10

Normans Unwooded Chardonnay 2000 16.5 £5.00
Quite superb richness and balance for a fiver. Elegance and finesse, yet fullness and richness. This is a remarkably complete wine which demonstrates its purity of fruit in all ways. It may have added acids but it's finely balanced. Most stores.

Overtly Aromatic White NV, Tesco 15 £5.00
More overt lime fruit than hugely aromatic. A superbly cheeky and tangy wine for oriental food. Most stores.

Oxford Landing Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely texture to the melon/lemon fruit with a hint of toffee.

Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5.00
Superbly subtle riches and striking cleanness of tonality. A benchmark fiver's worth of New World Sauvignon: crisp and fresh and biting without being remotely tart or too dry. Most stores.

Padthaway Chardonnay 2000, Tesco 16 £5-7
Touch of warm spice, hint of minerals, suggestion of vegetality. A lovely open-hearted wine of charm and style. Most stores.

Rosemount Chardonnay 2000 16 £5-7
Rich yet subtle. Superb class. Most stores

Rosemount Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 £5–7

Rosemount Semillon/Chardonnay 2000 15 £5–7
Delicious tanginess and melon ripeness undercut by fresh lemon.

Rosemount Semillon/Sauvignon 2000 15 £5–7
Has a fatness and sourness from the Semillon and a tangy crispness from the Sauvignon – the result is a successful marriage.

Smithbrook Chardonnay 1998 15 £7–10

Smooth Voluptuous White NV, Tesco 15 £5.00

Tim Adams Riesling 2000 16 £7–10
Beautiful lime/mineral aroma and fresh fruit – real tangy apricots/oranges/limes – all very very subtle – and a clean lemon finish. Will age for years and years with distinction. Limited distribution.

Tim Adams Semillon 1998 16.5 £7–10
Pineapple, pear, melon and lime: enough of a mouthful for you? It is for me.

Woolpunda Blue Block Chardonnay 1998 15.5 £5.00

Yendah Vale Chardonnay/Merlot Rosé 2000 12 £5.00
Has an odd medicinal tang

WAITROSE WHITE

Brown Brothers Late Harvested Orange Muscat & Flora 1999 (half bottle) 16.5 £5–7
It's the gorgeous honeyed hard-fruit acids which make it so exceptional as a pudding wine. Great with ice cream.

Bushmans Crossing Semillon/Chardonnay 2000 13 £5.00
Doesn't quite get to the other side

Cape Mentelle Semillon/Sauvignon 2000 17 £7–10
Simply one of Oz's greatest white wines – in this vintage it even sports tannins to give the pineapple, lemons and pears real grip.

Chapel Hill Verdelho 1999 16.5 £7–10
Superb tangy tension between the gently spicy fruit and firm acids. Terrific stuff – for food or mood.

Charleston Pinot Gris 2000 15 £5–7
Very attractive apricot fruit.

Château Tahbilk Marsanne 1998 17 £5–7
Young yet beautifully textured, tangy and tremendously minerally yet ripe. Has layers of pineapple, lemon and gooseberry. Will age for eight to ten years.

Currawong Creek Chardonnay 2000 13 –£5.00

De Bortoli Yarra Valley Chardonnay 1999 14 £10–15
Very expensive lushness.

Glenara Organic Dry Riesling 1996 16.5 £7–10
Lovely mature fruit, beginning to thicken and get interesting, with tangy minerals, pineapples, limes and a dry, elegant finish.

Greg Norman Estates Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2000 14 £7–10

Hardys Stamp of Australia Grenache Shiraz Rosé 1999 13.5 –£5.00

Houghton Classic Dry White 1998 15.5 £5–7

Jindalee Chardonnay 2000 16 –£5.00
Simply delightful and layered: gooseberries, melons and pears and subtle lemons. A lovely mouthful of assertiveness yet restraint. Good texture, too.

Nepenthe Lenswood Riesling 2000 16 £7–10
Beautiful tangy ripeness which will reach greater heights of oily citricity if the wine is cellared for five to ten years.

Nepenthe Vineyards Lenswood Semillon 1998 16.5 £7–10
Wonderful level of rich fruit and finely wrought acids. A very elegant and decisive white wine of great class.

Nepenthe Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £7–10
Lingers lushly yet freshly and offers great finely-knitted acids.

Oxford Landing Limited Release Viognier 2000 17 £5–7
Superb dry peach, walnut, pear and melon with very subtle lemon edging. An outstanding Viognier.

Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 –£5.00
Superbly subtle riches and striking cleanness of tonality. A benchmark fiver's worth of New World Sauvignon: crisp and fresh and biting without being remotely tart or too dry.

Penfolds Bin 95a Chardonnay 13.5 £13–20

Penfolds Old Vine Semillon, Barossa 1998 16 £5–7
I love the strident buttery richness as it impacts on the buds and then the stream of lush acidity which strikes the throat.

Penfolds Rawson's Retreat Bin 202 Riesling 2000 14 –£5.00
Needs a couple more years. Will rate 16-plus then.

Rosemount Estate Show Reserve Chardonnay 1999 16 £7–10

Gorgeous gentle creamy finish, fine acids, good melon/lemon richness. A very good class of Chard.

Roxburgh Chardonnay 1997 13.5 £20+
Thirty quid? Why? In heaven's name why?

Tea Tree Estate Chardonnay/ Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Dry and fresh. Touches of lemon. Good fish food.

Voyager Estate Chardonnay 1999 13 £10–13

Wirra Wirra Oaked Chardonnay 1998 15 £7–10
Superb class here really stretches what Chardonnay can do without coming apart. Lovely ripeness yet delicacy and huge immediacy of impact. Drink it young. It's wonderful young. Limited branches

Yalumba Eden Valley Viognier 1999 17 £7–10
A quite brilliant and impressively assembled woody Viognier of such elegance and class it towers head and shoulders over so many pricey Condrieu wines.

AUSTRIA

The world's most eccentric wine nation with some of the world's greatest wines.

TESCO RED

Blauer Zweigelt Lenz 14.5 ~~£5.00~~
Moser 1997

SAFEWAY WHITE

Cat's Leap Gruner 12 ~~£5.00~~
Veltliner 1999

WAITROSE WHITE

Munzenrieder 1997 13 ~~£5–7~~
(half bottle)
Cellar it for ten more years to discover what it can truly deliver.

BULGARIA

Once Thrace, it supplied mercenaries to Troy and wine to the Spartans how's that for commercial ingenuity?

BOOTHS RED

Boyar Cabernet Merlot 1998 12.5 ~~£3.50~~

CO-OP RED

Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Co-op 15 ~~£3.50~~
Fantastic price for such serious fruitiness and hints of class.

Mount Sofia Merlot Pinot Noir NV 14.5 ~~£3.50~~
Surprisingly successful amalgam of cherries and tannins and a hint of spice. Superstores only.

Oravinifera Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1996 16 ~~£5.00~~
Plum full of tannins, tenacious and taut, and finely throughout are plums and raspberries and blackberries.

Sliven Merlot/Pinot Noir NV 13.5 ~~£3.50~~

KWIK SAVE RED

Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 1999. Somerfield 13.5 ~~£3.50~~

Bulgarian Country Red 2000, Somerfield 13 ~~£3.50~~
Rather rustic in its texture.

MORRISONS RED

Boyar Iambol Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14.5 ~~£3.50~~

Boyar Premium Oak Merlot 1997 13.5 ~~£5.00~~

Danube Red 1999 13.5 ~~£3.50~~

SAFEWAY RED

Azbuka Merlot 1996 15 ~~£5.79~~

Nazdrave Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15.5 ~~£5.00~~

Sapphire Cove NV 14.5 ~~£3.50~~

Young Vatted Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Safeway 14 ~~£3.50~~

Juicy, touch sweet, good tannins.
Most stores

Young Vatted Merlot 2000, Safeway 12 ~£3.50
Most stores.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Blue Ridge 617 Merlot 1999 14 ~£5.00
Tannins, tight and deep, hold the fruit in a rich grip. Most stores.

Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 15.5 ~£3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Bulgarian Merlot NV, Sainsbury's 15.5 ~£3.50

SOMERFIELD RED

Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Somerfield 13.5 ~£3.50

Bulgarian Country Red 2000, Somerfield 13 ~£3.50
Rather rustic in its texture.

SPAR RED

Bulgarian Country Wine Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot NV, Spar 13 ~£3.50

Suhindol Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Spar 12 ~£5.00
Bit thin as it opens, but gathers some pace, only to finish dustily.

TESCO RED

Reka Valley Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Tesco 14.5 ~£3.50

WAITROSE RED

Blue Ridge American Barrel Merlot 1999 14.5 ~£5.00
Good leather and subtly spicy plums.

Domaine Boyar Merlot/Gamza, Iambol 1999 13.5 ~£3.50

CO-OP WHITE

Shumen Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 ~£3.50
Very accomplished blend of styles which is totally harmonised and well-ordered.

Shumen Muskat & Ugni Blanc 1999 14 ~£3.50
A far from charmless one-step non-wonder: has perfume and grapeyness. An excellent aperitif.

Sliven Valley of the Roses Rosé 2000 13.5 ~£3.50
Sticky edge but it's not OTT and the cherries are nicely perfumed.

MORRISONS WHITE

Boyar Pomorie 10 £3.50
Chardonnay 1998

SAFEWAY WHITE

Valley of the Roses 14 £3.50
Rosé 2000
Cherryish, dry and treads a fine line between delicious and tasty.
Selected stores

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Blue Ridge Black Rosé 13 £5.00
2000

Blue Ridge Chardonnay 13.5 £5.00
2000
Somewhat anonymous 'catch-all' Chardonnay.

Bulgarian Chardonnay 16 £3.50
1999, Somerfield
One of the best Chardonnays I've tasted from this country. There are, I assure you, far less appealing and aromatically adventurous burgundies on sale at ten times the price.

Spice Trail White 2000 13.5 £5.00
And spicy it is. Definite coriander edge to it.

SPAR WHITE

Bulgarian Country 11 £3.50
White NV, Spar

Preslav Estate 12 £5.00
Bulgarian Chardonnay
2000, Spar
Dry, very dry.

CANADA

I hold this country in great affection (I was once married to a Canadian) Its wives, though, do not offer sustaining relationships.

WAITROSE WHITE

Mission Hill Private Reserve Pinot Blanc 1999 11 £5.7

Peller Estates Founders Series Vidal 1999 10 ~~£5.00~~
Dull beyond the arctic circle of belief.

CHILE

Everybody's favourite – thanks to its incredibly clement climate.

ASDA RED

35 South Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 17 £5.00
Remarkably collected (acid, tannins, fruit) for the money. It lingers, it tongue lashes, it throat teases – a superbly well-marshalled assault on the senses

Big Chilean Cabernet 2000 (1.5 litres) 15 £3.50
Lots of savoury plum, a hint of raspberry, a suggestion of herbs. Great glugging.

Casas del Bosque Merlot 1999 14 £5.

Castillo de Molina Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15.5 £5.

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, Rapel Valley 1999 16.5 £3.00
Huge deep fruit and chocolate richness. Not as fruity as the 2000 but still remarkable.

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 1999 16.5 £5.00
The aroma is of wild raspberries and truffles, the fruit has touches of cassis of Morello cherry, the finish recalls the farmyard. Is this a £100 Richeborg? No, it's a Chilean Pinot for under a fiver.

Terra Mater Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13 £5.00
Very sweet for a Cab, especially a Chilean one.

Terra Mater Carmenère Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 14 £5.00
Odd specimen of rich lushness with a bell pepper undertone. Needs robust food to be at its best.

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious with Indian food – quite quite delicious.

Valdivieso Single Vineyard Merlot 1998 16.5 £2.10
Superb soft leather and chocolate and cassis and unctuous tannins. Lovely wine with exceptional finesse and grace (for such weight). Selected stores.

BOOTHS RED

Apaltagua Carmenère 13.5 £5–7
2000
A relaxed curry wine.

Carmen Grande Vidure Cabernet Sauvignon 13.5 £7–10
1998
Rousingly perfumed, nobly leathery and cassis fruit, with piles of fruity texture. A lovely wine.

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 13 £5.00
2000
Delicious vegetal Pinot-osity and terrific tannins. A lovely cherry and wild raspberry specimen.

Sierra Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 13.5 £5.00

Subsol Cabernet Malbec 1999 15 £5.00
Rich textured rampancy.

BUDGENS RED

Paso del Sol Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13 £5.00
Juicy and ripe with some mildly arousing tannins.

Stowells of Chelsea Cabernet Merlot NV 14.5 £5.00

Terra Andina Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 12 £5.00
Very ripe and jammy.

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £7–10
Delicious with Indian food – quite quite delicious.

CO-OP RED

Antares Merlot 2000 14 £5.00
Superb polish to this classy wine. It really wins on its lovely rich texture and elongated stylishness. Not at Convenience Stores

Casa Lapostolle Merlot Cuvee Alexandre 1997 13 £10–13
One of the finest Merlots on the face of the planet. The balance of tannins and complex fruit is a marvel, so classy, and the finish is composed of subtle chocolate and cassis. Marvellous stuff Superstores only.

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Co-op 13 £5.00
Good, dry, deep fruit of gentility yet character

Chilean Fair Trade Carmenère 2000, Co-op 13.5 £5.00

Four Rivers Malbec 1999 13 £5.00
Bargain fruity tippling. Great with food.

Las Lomas Cot Reserva 1999 13.5 £5–7
Classy, intense, tannic, very dry, food friendly. Made from singed fruit? Tastes deliciously so. Superstores only.

Las Lomas Organic Chilean Red 1999 13 £5.00
Juicy but not overwhlemingly so. It has excellent balance alcohol with tannins – and an urgency to please. The finish is rich and firm. Not at Convenience Stores

Long Slim Cabernet Merlot 2000 16 £5.00
Compelling fruit with touches of pepper, cooked vegetables, fine tannins and overall rich berries Terrific wine for the money.

Terra Mater Malbec 1999 15.5 £5.00

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £7–10
Delicious with Indian food – quite quite delicious. Superstores only.

Valdivieso Cabernet Franc Reserve 1997 17 £7–10
Quite remarkable chocolate richness here with seemingly undetectable yet delectable acids and fine tannins providing great poise. Intensely civilised tippling here. Superstores only.

Viña Gracia Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1999 15.5 £5–7

Viña Gracia Carmenère Reserve Especial 1999 16 £5.00
Vibrant, sexy, textured, beautifully harmonised elements (fruit, tannins, acids) and a real flurry of delicious acidity on the finish

KWIK SAVE RED

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon Viña La Rosa 2000, Somerfield 15.5 £5.00
Superb texture.

M & S RED

Casa Leona Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 16.5 £5.00
Has beautifully constructed textured hint of spice, touch of cassis, lovely pert tannins which are mannered and don't intrude, and the finish is lilting.

Casa Leona Merlot 2000 16.5 £5.00
Superb texture to this wine. It has tannins like corduroy, fruit like satin, acids like truffled cherries.

Cuartel 34 Malbec Reserve 1999 16 £7.10
Reserved? Don't you believe it. This wine hares out of the bottle with a rush of gamy spice and loads of tannins to tease the drinker into unresolveable debate: is it chocolate? coffee? tea? cocoa? Well, it's something delicious.

Leon de Oro Merlot/ Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 17 £7–10
Decant this wine three to four hours beforehand but keep the bottle to stick a candle in. This is a big but elegant wine with panache and punchiness. It has layers of ripe fruit interlaced, deftly, with wonderful tannins.

Los Claveles Cabernet/ Carmenère 2000 15 £5.00
Good warmth to tannins and richness to the blackcurrants. An excellent wine for roast vegetables with melted haloumi cheese.

Pirque Estate Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000 16.5 £5–7
Spicy cherries, coffee, chocolate, and some kind of baked fruit on the finish. The lingering chewiness of the wine leaves a memorable residue of expresso and black olives A delicious experience, not for the faint-hearted.

Sierra Los Andes Merlot Cabernet 1999 16 £5–7
A sweet edged wine, with rich deep tannins, to go with spicy food. Loads of personality here without it being overbearing.

Sierra Los Andes Reserve Cabernet Merlot 1999 17.5 £5–7
Magnificent depth of class here. Brilliant tannins back up pepper, leather, blackcurrants, chives, touch of pear, and the whole package is rolled up into a perfect texture

Tolten Syrah/Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 17 £7–10
A massive attack (without being an overdose) of rich blackberries and bouncy tannins which cascade into daringly overripe and very raunchy richness over the palate in an extravagance of depth and flavour. This is not a wine to take lightly. It treats the palate shamelessly.

MORRISONS RED

Antares Merlot 2000 16 £5.00
Superb polish to this classy wine. It really wins on its lovely rich texture and elongated stylishness.

Condor Chilean Merlot 2000 14.5 £5.00
Combines excellent tannins with cherries and soft berries. Very good texture.

'M' Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 14.5 £5.00
As quaffable as a dry, rich Cabernet can get. Most attractive texture and warmth of finish.

Undurraga Carmenère 2000 12 £5.2
Odd baked fruit of curious gawky richness and ripeness.

Villa Montes Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15.5 £5.00

SAFEWAY RED

35 South Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 17 £5.00
Remarkably collected (acid, tannins, fruit) for the money. It lingers, it tongue lashes, it throat teases – a superbly well marshalled assault on the senses.

Acacias Estate Merlot, Maipo Valley 1998, Safeway 14 £3.00

Casa Lapostolle Cuvée Alexandre Merlot 1999 18 £7–10
Still one of the most beautifully

integrated Merlots on the planet. Has great fruit, outstanding tannins and complex acids.

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Safeway 13 –£5.00
Sulphur too evident on the specimen I tasted. But tannins are in. Most stores.

Concha y Toro Casillero del Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 16.5 –£5.00
Superb lingering richness, dry, herby, plummy and deft, and the tannins are crunchy without being bitter or twisted. Brilliant texture to the whole performance.

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel Valley 2000 17 –£5.00
An amazingly thickly textured, ripe wine of great depth and profundity. Hordes of flavours crowd the palate, or seem to, rather like intruders at the gate: too many to repel.

El Cadejo Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 14 –£5.00
Simple glugging charm. Has a warm rich texture to very soft tannins and loose berried fruit.

Errázuriz Syrah Reserva 1999 16 £7–10
An unusual blend of Rhône and Bordeaux with Italian tannins and earthiness. Most entertaining. Selected stores.

Isla Negra Merlot 2000 16.5 £5–7
Classic battered leather suitcase aroma introduces superbly voluptuous richness and layered levels of ripe hedgerow fruits with superb, balancing tannins.

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £7–10
Delicious with Indian food – quite quite delicious.

Valdivieso Malbec 2000 15 –£5.00
Tangy berries, warm, slightly chewy tannins, and a jammy finish

Valdivieso Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc 1998 16.5 £7–10
Very jammy and spicy yet with brilliant textured tannins. Marvellous food wine. Selected stores.

Valdivieso Single Vineyard Merlot 1998 16.5 £7–10
Superb soft leather and chocolate and cassis and unctuous tannins. Lovely wine with exceptional finesse and grace (for such weight).

Viña Morande Syrah 2000 14 –£5.00
Very ripe, bright fruit with grand tannins. Selected stores.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Caliboro Carignan Old Vine Reserva 2000 14 –£5.00
Juicy and ripe, quaffably berried

and respectable, and fine with spicy food.

Chilean Cabernet Merlot NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 16 £5.00
It's the best red in a box. It has oodles of flavour, toffeed and blackcurranty, with good acids and fine tannins. It is both a great food wine and a great quaffer. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Chilean Merlot NV, Sainsbury's 16.5 £5.00
Wonderful dry elegant opening, then the rich leather (soft, luxurious) cuts in, and then a big finish of savoury depth. A stunning quaff for the dosh.

Concha y Toro Casillero del Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 17 £5.00
Berried up to its neck in hedgerow offerings, beautifully structured interplay between tannins and a great texture, complex finish and great class. Most stores.

Cono Sur 20 Barrels Merlot 1999 16.5 £10–13
So immensely sure of itself and richly endowed with complex berries, acids and lovely tannins that it stands comparison with any Merlot in the world. 85 selected stores.

Cono Sur Reserva Merlot 1999 16.5 £5–7
Incredibly thickly-knitted and chewy. Great tannins!

Errázuriz Merlot 2000 16 £5–7
Very aromatic, chewy (almost chocolate-biscuity) fruit of immense flavour and urgent-to-please richness. Selected stores.

Errázuriz Pinot Noir Reserva 1999 17 £7–10
A complete Pinot: from the aromas of truffle and game sauce as it opens up, through the cherries, raspberries and acids of the fruit, to the lovely tannins and hint of farmyard on the finish. The Côte d'Or et Beaune can only gawp and admire. 80 selected stores.

Isla Negra Syrah 2000 16 £5–7
Gorgeous textured richness, it makes several examples of the same grape (Shiraz) from Oz seem rather spineless. Most stores

La Palmeria Merlot Gran Reserva 1999 18.5 £7–10
Totally astonishing maturity yet freshness. Deep tannins, chewy and ripe, wonderfully textured berries and a magically rich, velvet finish.

MontGras Carmenère Reserva 1999 16 £5–7
Wonderful chewy texture, very sound tannins, and a lovely crunchy berried finish – you can almost feel the pips in the blackberries. Most stores

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious with Indian food - quite quite delicious. Most stores.

Valdivieso Malbec 2000 15 £5.00
Tangy berries, warm, slightly chewy tannins, and a jammy finish. Most stores

Valdivieso Merlot 2000 16 £5.00
A leather bound classic. Touch of Hardy, hint of Conrad, even a suggestion of Roth. Most stores.

SOMERFIELD RED

Canelo Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 15.5 £5.00
Delicious. Has a touch of malt chocolate on the finish.

Canelo Estate Carmenère 2000 15 £5.00
What lovely understated berries here. Very elegant.

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon Viña La Rosa 2000, Somerfield 15.5 £5.00
Superb texture.

Chilean Cabernet/ Merlot Viña La Rosa 2000, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Fantastic price for such high class tannins and berries

Chilean Merlot 2000, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Superb. What more can one add? The price is amazing for such richness

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1998 16 £5-7
Coffee, cassis, tannins – what a formula for exquisite quaffing. Selected stores

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 2000 16 £5.00
Delicious vegetal Pinot-osity and terrific tannins. A lovely cherry and wild raspberry specimen.

Errázuriz Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 16 £5-7
Superb class in a glass – and by itself. Great subtle chocolate, fruit and tannins. Selected stores.

Isla Negra Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 16 £5-7
Lip smackingly deep and dry and delicious. Selected stores

Isla Negra Merlot 2000 16.5 £5-7
Classic battered leather suitcase aroma introduces superbly voluptuous richness and layered levels of ripe hedgerow fruits with superb, balancing tannins.

Santa Ines Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1999 16.5 £5-7
Magnificent texture, polished tannins, elegant cut to the finish.

Tarapaca Gran Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1999 16.5 £5-7
Wonderful layered riches here combining four fruits, five spices, three herbs and great single-minded tannins. Selected stores.

Terrarum Merlot 2000 16.5 £5–7
Rampant yet doesn't overreach itself with lovely dry berries and fruits, brilliantly textured and tight, and superb tannins.

SPAR RED

Canepa Merlot 1998, Spar 13 £5.00

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Spar 15 £5–7
Rich energetic quaffing here with blackberries coated in good deep tannins.

Chilean Merlot 1999, Spar 14 £5–7
A rich curry friendly red of plummy depth and ripe textured finish.

Tocornal Red 2000, Spar 14 £5.00
Sweetness tempered by dry tannins make for a firm finish and some lingering lushness.

TESCO RED

Caliterra Syrah 1999 16 £5–7
A very leathery, savoury, pliant Syrah which oozes charm without oozing OTT fruit. (Yet it is unashamedly modern.) Not at all stores

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Tesco 16 £5.00
Chocolate with raspberry with a hint of earth and blackcurrant on the finish. And that's just the finish.

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2000, Tesco 15.5 £5.00
Very juicy initial approach, then the tannins bite. Good quaffing for blackcurrant fans (but this is dry to finish). One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores

Chilean Malbec NV, Tesco 16.5 £5.00
What a bargain! Has gorgeous texture to it (thanks largely to the lovely tannins) and terrific leather and blackberry fruitiness. Surprisingly elegant and balanced for the money. Most stores.

Chilean Merlot NV, Tesco 16 £5.00
Odd sort of Merlot. It's delicious all right, but it has an unusual vegetal edge of some intrigue. Where did it come from? Where will it go? You may drink it with pleasure, however, without reflecting on those questions.

Chilean Merlot Reserve 2000, Tesco 15.5 £5.00
Delicious pacy fruit here of texture and depth. Most stores.

Chilean Red NV, Tesco 15 £2.50

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 2000 16 £5.00
Delicious vegetal Pinot-osity and terrific tannins. A lovely cherry and wild raspberry specimen.

Cono Sur Pinot Noir Reserve 1999 16.5 £5–7
Lovely bitter cherry and wild raspberry fruit with wonderful meaty tannins – why, this wine is a meal in itself.

Errázuriz Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva 1998 16.5 £7–10
Hints of cigar box, spice, blackcurrants, raisins, liquorice and a very subtle lingering after-tang of coriander. Utterly delicious. Serious yet totally, captivatingly entertaining.

Errázuriz Don Maximiano 1998 16 £14–20
Very deep and delicious, superb tannins giving the wine personality and backbone. The overall impression is of power and concentration. Worth eighteen quid? When so much wonderful stuff from Chile costs around a fiver? Well, it rates 16. The tannins give it such class.

Errázuriz Merlot 2000 16 £5–7
Very aromatic, chewy (almost chocolate-biscuity) fruit of immense flavour and urgent-to-please richness.

Errázuriz Syrah Reserva 1998 16 £7–10
Beautifully aromatic, smooth, fruity and completely kitted out. Has hints of tobacco and cocoa within the voluptuous texture and the finish is highly cultured.

Isla Negra Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel 1999 16 £5.00
A very concentrated, compacted wine with cherries, plums and hint of strawberry. The texture is gripping, gently grand and very gracious as it quits the throat.

Isla Negra Merlot 2000 16.5 £5–7
Classic battered leather suitcase aroma introduces superbly voluptuous richness and layered levels of ripe hedgerow fruits with superb, balancing tannins.

Luis Felipe Edwards Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva 1999 15.5 £5–7
Juicier than previous vintages and less classically old-style Cabernet. But the tannins are alert and don't let the fruit slip away that easily.

Salsa Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 14 £5.00
Ripe plums, good tannins, very food friendly fruit altogether. Excellent party wine when you wish to spoil your guests.

Santa Ines Cabernet/Merlot 2000 17 £5.00
Utterly remarkable wine for the money which soaks the taste buds in deep tannins, blackcurrants with spice, a touch of cocoa and cashew nut, and a lingering finish of savoury richness. Operates on the eye, nose and throat and the NHS could do worse than prescribe it to all liverish patients.

Stowells Chilean Cabernet/Merlot NV 14.5 – £5.00

Terra Mater Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 15 – £5.00
Brisk as many a top-notch claret but has sunnier tannins, more softness to the blackcurrants and greater wallop on the finish

Two Tribes Red NV 14.5 – £3.00
Some really attractive savoury fruit here. Good tannins, too.

Valdivieso Cabernet Franc Reserve 1999 17 – £7–10
Coffee, chocolate, tobacco, herbs, berries and elongated tannins of real class – it has it all. Nine quid yes. But more than nine quid's worth of fruit

Valdivieso Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1998 17 – £5–7
Coffee, cocoa, herbs, roast meat, tannins – what a liberal assembly of great riches here. Most stores

Valdivieso Carignan 1999 16 – £5.00
Lovely earthy fruit, herby and warm, with a resounding sense of pleasure-seeking demeanour. A terrific quaffing wine – as well as going robustly with food. Selected stores.

Valdivieso Malbec Reserve 1997 16.5 – £7–10
Gorgeous baked fruit texture which hardens – encrusted with superb tannins. Very rich and deep, full of stylish edges, and hugely elegant overall. Selected stores only

Vision Merlot Reserve 2000 16.5 – £7–10
Oh yes, this is more like it: rich, soft, spicy, layered, gorgeously tannic and brilliantly textured. Great tippling here. Selected stores

WAITROSE RED

Caballo Loco No 4 NV 16.5 – £13–20
The best so far of this non-vintage blend. Individual, classy, deep and rich

Concha y Toro Merlot 2000 14 – £5.00
Very smooth and plump

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel Valley 2000 17 – £5.00
An amazingly thickly textured, ripe wine of great depth and profundity. Hordes of flavours crowd the palate, or seem to, rather like intruders at the gate: too many to repel.

Errázuriz Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15.5 – £5–7
One of the world's most civilised yet smoothly characterful and quaffable Cabs.

Errázuriz Merlot 1999 16 – £5–7
Goes subtly peppery and tobacco-edged as it finishes. Lots of warmth, texture and richness here.

Isla Negra Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel 1999 16 £5–7
A very concentrated, compacted wine with cherries, plums and hint of strawberry. The texture is gripping, gently grand and very gracious as it quits the throat.

Mont Gras Carmenère Reserva 2000 15.5 £5–7
Sweet plums and loganberries with a hint of chocolate. Fine-grained tannins complete the recipe

Valdivieso Barrel Selection Cabernet/ Merlot 1997 16.5 £5–7
Marvellous evolving fruit which takes delicious seconds to go from ripe blackcurrant to spicy plum. Gorgeous texture and lingering finish.

Valdivieso Cabernet Franc Reserve 1998 17.5 £7.10
A superb wine of such staggering class (evidence: the texture, the swanky tannins and the aromatic fruit) that much more expensive Bordeaux pales into insignificance beside it. It is complex, tight, highly concentrated and very very lingering.

Valdivieso Pinot Noir Reserve 1997 16 £5–7
Lovely chewy, gently exotic edge to the Pinot riches which include chocolate and spicy cherries.

ASDA WHITE

Casas del Bosque Sauvignon Blanc 1999 15 £5–7

Chardonnay Reserve Cono Sur 1999 15.5 £5–7
Very rich and food friendly.

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Asda 16 £5.00
Superb value: elegance, richness, subtlety, texture and a smart finish

Undurraga Gewürztraminer 2000 16 £5.00
At last! A really accomplished Undurraga wine: spicy, balanced, rich and very elegant. Selected stores

Valdivieso Malbec Rosé 2000 16.5 £5.00
One of the most delicious rosés I've tasted. Terrific spicy cherry and very subtle blackberry fruit with fine acids and an excellent texture. Brilliant thirst quencher, barbecue food wine and all-round civilised household friend
Selected stores

BOOTHS WHITE

Casablanca Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 1999 16.5 £5–7
Superb! The finest white wine at Booths? Possibly Has gorgeous woody richness, ripe fruit and teasing acids. A very fine Chardonnay indeed.

Isla Negra Chardonnay 1999 13.5 £5–7
Oily, rich, deep and charmingly disorganised and slightly raffish. Good quaffing companion.

Sierra Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Bit numb.

Subsol Chardonnay Sauvignon 2000 14 £5.00
Interesting oriental food wine.

Subsol Chardonnay Sauvignon Vistamar 1999 14 £5.00

Tocornal White NV 13.5 £5.00
Dry and good value for PTA parties

BUDGENS WHITE

Paso del Sol Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13 £5.00
Oddly ill at ease for a Chilean wine.

Terra Andina Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5.00
Has some richness and texture but seems unbalanced as it finishes

CO-OP WHITE

Four Rivers Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5.00
Rich and soft and perfect with tandoori cod or hake.

Long Slim Chardonnay Semillon 2000 13 £5.00
Long, yes, slim too.

Santa Carolina Chardonnay 1999 13.5 £5.00
Concentrated elegance here, but not a hair is out of place; nothing overdone. Understated? Maybe, but very classy.

KWIK SAVE WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £5.00
Dry melon nuttiness and calmly textured ripeness. Pear and pineapple on the finish.

Chilean White 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50
Crisp and fresh.

M & S WHITE

Barrera Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5.00
Bit short on the finish. Fatness where it should have fitness.

Casa Leona Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Not as insistently fruity and exciting as previous vintages

Los Claveles Gewürztraminer 2000 13.5 £5.00
The most oddly packed Gewürz I've tasted – ever. Lacks varietal spice and chutzpah. (That's what you get from mucking it about by adding 20% Chardonnay.)

Pirque Estate Chardonnay 2000 13 £7–10
Curious cosmetic feel to it. The lemon juice finish disturbs the palate rather than smoothes it.

Pirque Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13 £7–10
£7.50? £2.99!

MORRISONS WHITE

35 South Chardonnay 2000 14.5 –£5.00
A rich oriental food wine.

Antu Mapu Reserva Rosé 1999 13 –£5.00

Condor Chilean Chardonnay 2001 13 £5.00
Very fat and fleshy. Bit too over-exuberant for me.

'M' Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13 –£5.00
Another fat and fleshy Morrisons white wine under four quid. Can we change the recipe, Stuart?

Montes Alpha Chardonnay 1998 17.5 £7–10
Chile's Montrachet – if that isn't to insult it. It has a creamy vegetality, beautiful smooth texture, subtle complex charms on the tongue, and a lingering smokiness as it descends – and hits the soul.

Villa Montes Sauvignon Blanc 1999 14 –£5.00

SAFEWAY WHITE

Aresti Gewürztraminer 2000 13 –£5.00
Dry touch awkward on the finish.
Selected stores

Casa Lapostolle Cuvee Alexandre Chardonnay 1999 17 £7–10
The best white wine at Safeway: subtle, dry (yet insistent and coolly rich), layered, oily and textured, stretching and languorous on the taste buds and very very accomplished. Has complexity and real class.
Selected stores

Chilean Dry White 2000, Safeway 16 –£3.50
Quite superb subtly grassy yet rich-to finish fruit. Much better than a hundred Sancerres

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Safeway 16 –£5.00
Superb value for money. Crisper and more compelling than Sancerre.

Santa Rita Chardonnay 1999 16 £5–7
Gorgeous melon, raspberry and lemon fruit, hint of nut, suggestion of minerality. Gentle yet engrossing. Most stores

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay NV, Sainsbury's 16 £5.00
Length of flavour (Ogen melon with very subtle spicing) and

concentration here provide a delicious mouthful.

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV, Sainsbury's 16.5 £5.00
Combines the hint of minerality classic Sauvignon must convey with delicate melon/lemon fruit with a hint of lime and pear

Errázuriz Wild Ferment Chardonnay, Casablanca 1999 17 £7-16
It's most like a wild Meursault with its hint of vegetality and very lingering, creamy woodiness. Has a long-delayed richness, complex and fine, which demands the drinker employs a brain, to mull over the wine's effects, as well as the usual organs. Limited distribution.

MontGras Chardonnay Reserva 1999 15.5 £5-7
Rich, ripe fruit with a hint of roasted nuts and toffees. Finishes with a resounding thwack of fruit. Most stores.

MontGras Chardonnay Reserva 2000 15 £5-7
Very sticky toffee with the two thousand vintage, and more dry lemon. Most stores.

Stowells Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV (3 litre box) 13.5 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield 15.5 £5.00
Dry melon nuttiness and calmly textured ripeness. Pear and pineapple on the finish.

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2001, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Tangy tenacity and lovely rolling acids.

Chilean Semillon Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Fantastically elegant and well-tailored for the money. Like M&S shirts twelve years ago.

Chilean White 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50
Crisp and fresh.

Cono Sur Viognier 2000 15 £5-7
Very acute apricot richness with an added layer of stewed berries on the finish. Limited distribution.

Errázuriz Chardonnay 2000 16 £5-7
If it's not an overworked word in my limited vocabulary: delicious and scrumptious, elegant, buttery, delicate, wonderful. Selected stores.

Isla Negra Chardonnay 2000 15 £5-7
Dry and purposeful: lemon undertone to melon richness.

Terrarum Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 £5.00
A high class dry contender for crab and prawn dishes.

SPAR WHITE

Canepa Chilean Chardonnay 1999, Spar 15.5 £5–7
Some good ripe fruit here, melon, pear and pineapple, nicely textured form to finish.

Canepa Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 1999, Spar 14 £5.00
Chewy, ripe, baked gooseberry edge.

Tocornal Chilean White 2000, Spar 13 £5.00
Dry richness which doesn't quite reach an exciting finish.

TESCO WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay Reserve 2000, Tesco 16 £5.00
Superb casual elegance to the fruit here as though the wine was born not made. Has unalloyed deliciousness and charming unpretentious richness. Part of Tesco's 'Finest' range. Most stores.

Chilean Chardonnay, Tesco 14 £5.00

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV, Tesco 14.5 £5.00

Chilean White NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50

Errázuriz Chardonnay 1999 16 £5–7
Very distinguished in feel as it slithers over the taste buds, proving, if any further proof were necessary, that Chile makes abundantly toothsome Chardonnays at a remarkable price.

Errázuriz Chardonnay Reserva 1997 17 £7–10
Superb! Like an exotic Meursault! Not at all stores.

Isla Negra Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Dry and purposeful: lemon undertone to melon richness

Luis Felipe Edwards Chardonnay 1999 16.5 £5.00
Beautiful subtlety and creamy richness which reveal gentle layers of melon, wood, lemon, pineapple and cream on the finish. Most stores.

Santa Ines Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5.00
Not typically Sauvignon in character except as the dry, crisp fruit dries out in the back of the throat and the tang of gooseberry is detectable. Most stores.

Stowells Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV 12 £5.00

Terra Mater Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5.00
Dry melon and raspberry fruit with a touch of pineapple.

Two Tribes White NV 14 £5.00
Ripe pear undertone, touch of coriander, fresh lemon. Hits the spot when the weather's sultry.

Valdivieso Malbec Rosé 2000 13.5 £5.00
One of the most delicious rosés I've tasted. Terrific spicy cherry and very subtle blackberry fruit with fine acids and an excellent texture. Brilliant thirst quencher, barbecue food wine and all-round civilised household friend.
Selected stores while stocks last

WAITROSE WHITE

35 South Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Very good with baked cod with saffron mash.

Calterra Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5.00
Has a wonderful crisp edge with a soft fruit centre – delicious.

Canepa Semillon 2000 13.5 £5.00
Excellent crisp dry peach/pear fruit.

Gracia Temporal Reserva Superior Chardonnay 1997 15 £7–10
A food Chardonnay, most likely a perfect marriage with scallops. The wine has a richness which tempers any elegance it might had laid claim to.

CYPRUS

The possibilities exist for greatness some day

CO-OP RED

Island Vines Cyprus Red 2000, Co-op 13 £3.50
Has a baked plum overtone.

Mountain Vines Reserve Cabernet/ Maratheftiko 1999, Co-op 16 £5.00
The Maratheftiko adds a curious nutty, cooked, almost herby/ spicy element to the dry, peppery Cabernet and the result is some extremely engaging fruit of lingering lushness. Superstores only.

CO-OP WHITE

Island Vines Cyprus White 2000, Co-op 14 £3.50
Good tangy gooseberries, limes and a hint of raspberry.

Mountain Vines Semillon 1998, Co-op 14 £5.00
Interesting edge of ripe plum and gooseberry with fresh acids, with a slight vegetal hint, surging alongside. Not at Convenience Stores.

ENGLAND

Ah, those brave bulldog vine-growers of the Merrie Island - mostly mediocre.

BUDGENS WHITE

Three Choirs Phoenix 11 £5.00
1999
Odd greasy finish.

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Chapel Down Premium 12.5 £5.00
Medium Dry 1999
Rich, off-dry, and good for spicy fish stews. Expensive, though. Limited distribution.

Chapel Down 11 £5–7
Schonburger 1999
Seems to make a reasonable start then turns austere and falls short Limited distribution.

WAITROSE WHITE

Chapel Down 15 £5.00
Downland Oak NV
Heaven help us! A drinkable English white under a fiver. Delicious gooseberry and lime fruit.

Chapel Down Flint Dry 13.5 £5.00
1998

FRANCE

Look to the Languedoc and Roussillon for the great wines of the future.

ASDA RED

Beaune 1er Cru 10 £10–13
Antoine de Peyrache
1998
Why bother? There are Asda reds at half the price three times more interesting.

Buzet Cuvee 44 1997 15 £5.00

California Old Vine 13.5 £5.00
Estates Carignan NV
Juicy, ripe, and manifestly curry friendly.

Château Biston Brillette 16.5 £7–10
Moulis 1997
Classic cheroot aroma, superb tannins and real sumptuous texture. Brilliant fruit. High class stuff. Limited distribution.

Château Clauzet St- 13 £10–13
Estèphe 1997
Compared to the average Chilean Cab/Merlot it's overpriced by at least three times.

Château 'D' de 16 £10–13
Dassault St-Emilion
1998
What elegance and balanced charms, delicious tannins, lovely blackcurrant fruit. Limited distribution.

Château d'Arsac 17 £10–13
Margaux 1999
Lovely tannins. Not ferocious exactly . . . but superb with red meat and rare game. Limited distribution.

Château du Gaby 13.5 £7–10
Cannon-Fronsac 1998
Bit loose and sweet on the finish. Limited distribution.

Château Gigault 16.5 £7–10
Premières Côtes de
Blaye 1998
Superb structure! Lovely blackcurrant spiciness and earthy richness with delightful tannins. Very elegant, fruity and deep. Hugely attractive wine for rich food.

Château Haut 16.5 £7–10
Canteloupe Médoc
1998
Lovely sweet/tannin finish on it gives it great lingering classiness. It is a complex claret, possessing remarkable quaffability.

Château La Chene de Margot Premières Côtes de Blaye 1998
Very dry and tannic but superb with rare game and meat dishes.

Château Lamarzelle St-Emilion Grand Cru 1997
The true name of this château is Grand Barail Lamarzelle Ligeac and thirty-five years ago I was advised that this collation of syllables made the wine impossible to sell. Hence it was cheap. Now it's shorter in name and longer in price. No longer a bargain but marvellous fluency between fruit and tannins.

Château Lynch-Moussas Pauillac 1997
Delightfully spicy (coriander?) fruit with dashing and concise tannins. Lot of money but has some class.

Château Maucaillou Moulis 1997
Energy here and very cultured tannins. Limited distribution.

Château Sociando Mallet Haut-Medoc 1997
Very ripe with a sour edge to the blackcurrant. Lovely tannins but . . . £25? Limited distribution.

Château Vieux Gaburan 1999 (organic)

Châteauneuf du Pape Domaine Giraud 1998
Very juicy and ripe for eleven quid. Selected stores.

Cornas 1998
Juicy, ripe, hint of coal tar on the finish. Very good casserole wine. Limited distribution.

Côte de Beaune-Villages Michel Pont 1998
Another crude Burgundy barely deserving of the taste buds.

Côtes du Rhône Cuvee Speciale 2000, Asda
I laughed when I saw cuvee speciale on the label but was forced to swallow my disdain. It is special. Very special – for under three quid. It has lively tannins and rich berried fruit. Classy finish, too.

Côtes du Rhône Jean Berteau 1999
Simply classic Rhône quaffing under-a-fiver. Has herbs, earth, touches of warm hedgerows, good tannins, and a very upright structure.

Crozes-Hermitage Les Haut de Pavières 1999
A classic Crozes where the immediate plummy richness (and blackcurrants) goes marvellously dry, smoky and chewy and goes on developing layers of tarry fruit as it soothes the throat.

Domaine de Montplaisir Cabernet Franc VdP d'Oc 2000
Lovely textured chewiness, gentle

chocolate-edged richness, raunchy tannins, and a really lingering finish. An exceptionally characterful wine for the money.

French Connection Reserve Merlot 2000 15 £–£5.00
Excellent balance of fruit, tannins, and acids with the tannin pulling away on the finish. Has touches of soft leather and berries (black and blue). A bruising experience, then.

Gigondas Domaine St Damien 1999 14.5 £7–10
Sweet liquorice. Wonderful tannins. Good grip. Marvellous with refined Indian cuisine. Selected stores

Hermitage 1998 14 £10–13
Lots of ripe juice plus a hint of tobacco. Limited distribution.

J. Frelin Organic Côtes du Rhône NV 14 £–£5.00
Nice touch of fruity earthiness Spiced plums mostly.

La Montagne Fitou Réserve 1999 15 £–£5.00
Seems big and soupy at first quaff then goes berries and bustling with tannins.

La Vieille Ferme, Côtes du Ventoux 1999 16 £–£5.00
Classic oomph from the fruit which offers herbs, tannins, berries and bounce. Also it has dry, textured tenacity and drive. Selected stores.

Les Crouzels Fitou 1999 16 £7–10
When you try to lift the bottle you know this is a wine which takes itself seriously. And it does. And it is. It has a very classy texture, polished berries, and firmish tannins

Les Fiefs de La Grange St-Julien 1998 14 £13–20
Lot of money. Very svelte tannins Limited distribution.

Nuits-St-Georges 1988 10 £13–20
Lot of money but not a lot of excitement. Would have been better five or six years ago. Getting raw and stale on the edge. Limited distribution.

Organic Claret Château Vieux Georget, Bordeaux 1998 15.5 £5–7

Pommard Jean-Marc Bouley 1998 14.5 £13–20
Bitter cherries and very fine-grained, deep tannins. Limited distribution.

Rasteau Côtes du Rhône-Villages Domaine de Vallambreuse 2000 16 £–£5.00
One of my favourite villages in the Rhône known for its rich dry reds – but not at this remarkable price. Here we are presented with berries and coffee, lovely warm tannins, a suspicion of spice, and a lovely cuddly finish.

Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £–£3.50
Curious sticky fruit from which

berries slowly emerge and then pretty strident tannins which contribute hugely to its effect and its rating.

Tramontane Red VdP de l'Aude 1999, Asda 16 ~£3.50
Brilliant earthy richness and ripeness. Real bargain here.

Vacqueyras Domaine de l'Oiselet 1999 16.5 £5–7
Superbly herby and ripe, rivulets of leather/plump blackcurrant fruit and marvellous alert tannins Gorgeous fruit of great style here.

Volnay Antoine de Peyrache 1998 10 £7–10
It was only a pleasure to spit it out.

BOOTHS RED

Bergerac Rouge NV, Booths 13 ~£3.50

Bourgogne Rouge Joillot 1999 13 £5–7

Cahors 1999 15 ~£5.00
Intensely dry and deep. Wonderful meaty stuff. Tannins like shark's teeth.

Château Cluzan Bordeaux 1999 15.5 ~£5.00
Brilliant value claret Has presence and poise.

Château Ducla, Bordeaux 1997 15 £5–7

Château l'Euzière Pic St Loup 1998 16.5 £7–10
Wonderful biscuity tannins, herbs, earthiness to the tannins, tension to the rich finish Wonderful wine.

Château Mayne-Vieil, Fronsac 1998 16 £5–7
Coal-edged chewiness to beautiful tannins and firmly textured fruit. A lovely claret for the money.

Château Pierrail Bordeaux Supérieur 1998 15.5 £5–7
Intense dry fruit of great concentration and class.

Chaume Arnaud Domaine Côtes du Rhône-Villages 1998 (organic) 17 £7–10
It develops on the palate with insidious deliciousness providing herbs, savoury tannins, a hint of rustic orchards, and a deal of characterful texture. Marvellous stuff.

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Georges Darriaud 1998 13.5 £5–7

Domaine de la Bastide VdP Hautrive 1999 8 ~£3.50
So sweet and ripe it stuns the palate.

Domaine de Petit Roubie Syrah VdP d'Oc NV (organic) 15.5 ~£5.00
Superb tannins, rich and ready, to deep plums and cherries.

Domaine les Yeuses la Soure VdP d'Oc 1999 14 ~£5.00

Dark, rich, thick.

Faugères Gilbert Alquier 1998 15.5 £7–10
Dry plums (intense, interesting, incisive) and firm, deep tannins. An outstandingly herby Rhône red.

Fitou Madame Parmentier 1998 13.5 £5.00

Gigondas Domaine Paillere et Pied 1998 16 £7–10
Superb lesson in integrated rich, soft tannicity and herb-drenched plums, blackberries and baked earth. Hugely civilised tippling.

Honoré de Berticot Merlot Côtes de Duras NV 15.5 £5.00
Delicious depth of fruit here. herby, ripe and soft to finish.

La Passion Rouge VdP de Vaucluse 2000 14 £3.50
Brilliant little party wine. Has an easygoing earthiness.

La Réserve du Reverend Corbières 1999 13.5 £5.00

Marcillac 1997 15 £5.00

Morgon Côte du Py 1998 13 £5–7

Oak Aged Claret Bordeaux Supérieur NV, Booths 14 £5.00

Old Git Grenache Syrah 1999 15.5 £5.00

Pernands Vergelesses Domaine Rossignol Cornu 1998 14 £7–10
One of the driest Burgundies I've tasted for some time. The tannins are crunchy and deep.

Vin Rouge NV, Booths 11 £3.50

BUDGENS RED

Chapelle St Laurent Côtes du Marmandais 1999 12 £5.00
Raw tannins to fruity juice.

Château St Louis Corbières 2000 13 £5.00
Bit rough on the finish.

Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2000 11 £5.00
Juicy and overripe.

Fleurs de France Merlot Syrah Devereux NV 12 £3.50
Very soupy and ripe.

Fortant de France Grenache VdP d'Oc 2000 16 £5.00
Absolutely delicious glugging here. The wine has depth, personality, structure and weight – and calm complexity on at least two levels. Yes, it's immediate and gently lush but its charm is huge.

Fortant de France Syrah 1999 15 £5.00
Juicy berries but has terrific tannins to give it backbone. Has personality and flavour.

French Connection Syrah Grenache 2000 14.5 £5.00
Good blackcurrants and fine tannins. Stylish finish.

La Baume Syrah 1998 15 £5.00
Ripe but with some chewy texture to the tannins. Overall, a firm Syrah uniting a Rhône dryness with an Aussie spiciness. somewhere in the middle.

La Nature French Red VdP de l'Hérault 2000 11 £5.00
Very very . . . uninteresting.

Oaked Côtes du Rhône Prestige Les Faisandines 2000 15.5 £5.00
Delicious collusion of herby berries and warm tannins. Has character and style, this wine.

Premium Oaked Cabernet Sauvignon/ Syrah VdP d'Oc, Devereux NV 14 £5.00
Has some amusing tannins on the berried finish.

Rhône Valley Red Côtes du Ventoux 2000 13.5 £3.50
Very ripe, hint of tannins, big rich finish.

CO-OP RED

Beaujolais NV, Co-op 12 £5.00
Jammy.

Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau 2000 9 £3.50
Horrible experience. Bananas and coconut with the texture of bubble gum.

Calvet Réserve Red 1998 10 £3-4
Typical Bordeaux at its basic and most boringly dry and costive. Superstores only.

Château de l'Hospital Graves 1997 13 £7-10
Not a tenner's worth of grapes here. Superstores only.

Château Fourtanet Côtes de Castillon 1997 15 £5-7
Raw, naked, dry claret for lovers of dark tannins, savourily deep, and a finish with hints of stale cheroot

Château Laurencon Bordeaux Supérieur 1998 14 £5.00

Château Pierrousselle Bordeaux 1999 14 £5.00

Château Thezannes Corbières 1998 15 £5.00
Good character to the wine has depth, daring and balanced richness of elements. Superstores only.

Château Villeranque Haut-Médoc 1997 15 £7-10
A pert little claret of substance and class. Very drinkable, dry and meaty. Superstores only.

Chevalière Réserve Grenache Vieilles Vignes 1999 13 £5.00
Very juicy.

Claret NV, Co-op 18 £3.50

Corbières Rouge NV, Co-op 13.5 £3.50

Corso Merlot 1999 12 £5.00
Merlot? Could have fooled me. Superstores only.

Domaine les Combelles Minervois 1998 13.5 £5.00

Fleurie 2000 12 £5–7
Expensive. Superstores only.

French Organic Merlot Syrah 2000, Co-op 13.5 £5.00
Curious disparateness between the leathery Merlot and the juicy Syrah. Not at Convenience Stores

French Organic Red 2000, Co-op 14 £5.00
Juicy but has very good tannin structure to hold it all together. Not at Convenience Stores.

Merlot VdP des Portes de Mediterrenee 1999 12 £3.50
Pretty basic, rustic, dry, good with cigarette smoke, card games, and crepuscular company Superstores only

Nuits-St-Georges 1996 9 £7–10
Disgraceful. Should be locked up and the key thrown away. Superstores only.

Oak Aged Claret NV, Co-op 13 £5.00

Rhône Valley Red 1999 14.5 £3.50

Vin de Pays d'Oc Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Co-op 15 £2.50
Deliciously dry blackcurranty richness, earthiness and gentle herbiness. A marvellous little glug for the dosh.

Vin de Pays d'Oc Fruity Red NV, Co-op 14.5 £3.50
Cheap, very cheerful, great with mildly spicy food. Has depth of fruit and daintiness of tannins. Great little glug for the money. Not at Convenience Stores.

Vin de Pays d'Oc Merlot NV, Co-op 14 £3.50
Jammy and ripe, deep and full. Great pasta plonk.

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah Mourvèdre NV, Co-op 12.5 £5.00
Superstores only.

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah NV, Co-op 14.5 £3.50
Juicy yet dry. Good with sausages and mash. Not at Convenience Stores

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah/Malbec, Co-op (vegetarian) 13.5 £5.00
Delicious fruit here of bounce and richness. Good tannins, herbs and characterful ripeness without puerility. The veggie reference ignore (unless you are one).

KWIK SAVE RED

Brouilly Les Celliers de Bellevue 2000 14 £5–7
Drinkable, textured, expensive.

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50

Some good earthy fruit here of character and charm.

Claret 2000, Somerfield 15 ~£3.50
Among the world's best value claret and no disgrace to a once-noble tradition. Has tannins and character.

Corbières Rouge 2000, Somerfield 13 ~£3.50

Côtes du Rhône 2000, Somerfield 13 ~£3.50
Sweet basic fruit

Les Oliviers French Red NV 13.5 ~£2.50
What do you expect for £1.99? The remarkable thing is you get more than you bargained for.

Skylark Hill Red 2000 12 ~£3.50

M & S RED

Beaune Cent-Vignes 1er Cru 1999 12 £13–20
Has some texture, I can grudgingly concede.

Benjamin de Pontet Pauillac 1997 16 £10–13
Impressive weight on the price tag leads the critical drinker to expect some weight, fruit and this is delivered: richly, softly, lingeringly and even a touch lushly (though the tannins are firm and flavoursome).

Bin 121 Merlot/Ruby Cabernet 2000 14 ~£5.00
Has some active tannins but it's the sweet cherries which predominate. Good with spicy food.

Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits Genevrières 1999 11 £7–10
Ten quid? It's a joke. In bad taste

Bourgogne Rouge Sordet 1998 11 £7–10
Dull.

Château d'Artix Minervois 1999 16.5 £5–7
Lovely chocolate richness, superb tannins, great blackcurrants and plums, a touch of spice, and a delicious thwack of individuality as it surges home and down. A very engaging wine.

Château de Surville Costières de Nîmes 1999 12 £5–7
Gripping performance from fine-grained tannins, rich plums, cherries and berries, touches of thyme and rosemary and a warm-hearted, textured finish.

Château Gallais Bellevue Cru Bourgeois, Médoc 1998 13.5 £5–7
Interesting sweet edge to it. Most untypical.

Château Gressina, Bordeaux Supérieur 2000 14 ~£5.00
Dry, vegetal, good with rare meats

Château Haut Duriez Haut-Médoc 2000 15 £5–7
Smells of stale stogie, tastes of dry

charcoal-edged plums, and finishes with a touch of floorboard. Classic claret, some would say.

Château La Roseraie Dumont Puisseguin Saint-Emilion 2000 16.5 £5–7
One of the best under £7 clarets I've tasted. Lovely warm tannins, cassis-edged plums, and a fine texture holding it all convincingly together.

Château Lataste Premières Côtes de Bordeaux 1996 16 £5.00
A ripe, ready claret at a sensible price. Has deliciously smooth tannins and a delightful cigar-box tang to the blackcurranty, leathery fruit. Balanced, positive fruit at a fantastic price.

Coeur de Vallée VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £5.00
Some good savoury tannins here

Côtes du Parc, Coteaux du Languedoc 2000 (organic) 16 £5.00
Very spicy, creamy fruit with most uncommon touches of bay leaf and banana – all this is subtle because the tannins give bite and backbone.

Domaine Galetis Cabernet/Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000 15 £5.00
Good rich fruit, rustic yet civilised, with good tannins and weight on the finish. Tastes like a minor claret but has more oomph and smoothness on the finish.

Domaine St Pierre VdP de l'Hérault 2000 13 £3.50
Rough, rustic roustabout.

Gold Label Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Oc 2000 17 £5.00
Ripe and juicy but with marvellous saucy tannins.

Gold Label Reserve Barrel Aged Syrah VdP d'Oc 1998 16.5 £5–7
Superb meaty fruit, touch of old cheroot to the spicy plums and blackberries, and a great rousing finish of oregano and coriander. Brilliant dinner party companion.

Gold Label Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £5.00
Mild, cool fruit of plummy richness with some real energy from the tannins

House Red Wine, VdP du Comte Tolosan 2000 13.5 £3.50
Bungalow more like. One storey fruit. But perfectly acceptable as a communion wine.

La Colonie VdP des Collines de la Moure 1998 16.5 £5–7
Lovely, quite brilliant, savoury, almost meaty richness and polished tannins. The texture is superbly pleasurable and finely wrought.

Les Romaines VdP d'Oc 1998 17 £7–10

A magical level of warm tannins, insistent yet impish, and huge dollops of catering chocolate bitterness harnessed to blackberries, cherries and soft fruit. The finish is like a long bite of chocolate heaven. A sinful, hedonistic experience, this fruit.

Margaux 1997 13.5 £10–13

Mercurey 1er Cru Domaine Levert 1998 11 £7–10
Yet more M&S Burgundy of no charm to this drinker.

Rock Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 13.5 £5.00
Ripe blackberries and very savoury hint-of-chocolate plums. Very good tannins here, too. Highly quaffable, food-friendly and classy.

St-Joseph, Cuvée Côte-Diane, 1998 13 £7–10
Intense, mysterious perfume, slightly exotic, leads to coal black fruit of burnt-edge cherries and blackberries and full rich tannins.

Silver Tree Shiraz 1999 14 £7–10
Very juicy and ripe and ready for spicy food.

Terre du Lion St-Julien 1997 13.5 £7–10
Very mature considering its youth and the tannins are superb. A fruity claret of class and impressive impactfulness. Compact, soft fruit of some style here

Volnay 1er Cru 1999 13.5 £13–20
Lovely tannins here and a good level of ripe fruit of some class but at £18 I really find it difficult to rave about this when £18 is a ravingly high price. I'd buy this wine at £4.99 but it doesn't begin to compare with an M&S Minervois.

MORRISONS RED

Bouches du Rhône Merlot NV 13 £3.50
Cheekily priced, properly fruity, very well organised. Has good tannins, hint of leather and deep plums.

Château Cadillac Legourgues Bordeaux 1997 13 £5–7

Château de Candale Haut-Medoc 1996 13 £7–10

Château Saint Galier Graves 1999 14 £5.00
Very dry claret for Conservative Club members.

Claret Bordeaux NV, Morrisons 13.5 £3.50

Falcon Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon, VdP d'Oc 1999 16 £3.50
Brilliant dryness and hugely arresting blackcurrant richness. Fantastic value.

Falcon Ridge Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000 14 £3.50
Very soft and gluggable with elegant tannins.

Falcon Ridge Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 ~£3.50
Plump, smokey and deep.

Heritage des Caves des Papes Côtes du Rhône 1999 16 ~£5.00
Rich herbs, soft tannins, some well organised, deep flavoured touches here.

La Chasse du Pape Réserve Côtes du Rhône 2000 16 ~£5.00
Stern-visages richness and tannic dryness – has hints of raspberry and cassis.

Les Planels Minervois 1999 14 ~£5.00
Herby, rustic richness and dry-to-finish fruit

'M' Côtes du Rhône NV 13 ~£3.50

'M' Côtes du Roussillon Red NV 13 ~£3.50

Minervois Cellier la Chouf NV 13 ~£3.50

Morgon Domaine de Chatelet 1999 13 £5–7

Old Git Grenache Syrah 2000 14 ~£3.50
Nothing old gittish about it. It's young and soft, gently plump and charming.

Pic St-Loup d'Une Nuit 1999 14 ~£5.00
Simple, smooth fruit of cherries, soft tannins and plums.

St-Emilion NV, Morrisons 14 £5–7

Sichel Médoc NV 13 £5–7

Winter Hill Red VdP d'Oc 1999 14 ~£3.50

SAFEWAY RED

Anciennes Vignes Carignan, VdP de l'Aude 2000 14 ~£5.00
Juicy and very dry to finish. Most stores

Baron de Lestac, Bordeaux 1998 14.5 ~£5.00
Soft, rich, plummy fruit with good tannins A claret of some decency and decorum. Dry but engagingly fruity.

Beaune 1998, Safeway 10 £7–10
Utterly bereft of wit. Selected stores

Beaune Premier Cru, Les Epenottes 1998 13.5 £13–20
Bitter cherry finish gives it some back up to the tannins but it lacks that hint of the daredevil which great Pinot must exhibit.

Bourgueil Les Chevaliers 2000 16 ~£5.00
I love this style of severe, dry raspberries/plums/cherries and dusty, slate-tile tannins. Lovely stuff. Most stores.

Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Oc 2000, Safeway 15.5 ~£5.00
Good ripe blackcurrants, tight

tannins and a surging finish. Very good value for money.

Château Boisset Cuvée Eugenie La Clape, Coteaux du Languedoc 2000 16.5 £5–7
Remarkably textured, highly herby, piles of soft fruit flavours and gorgeous tannins. Selected stores.

Château Chaubinet Bordeaux 1999 16 £5.00
Amazing quality of tobacco-edged fruit for under four quid. Fine savoury tannins and plump blackberries.

Château Clos de la Chesnaie, Lalande-de-Pomerol 1998 14.4 £7–10
Very classy, and stylish rich finish.

Château d'Agassac, Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois 1998 13.5 £10–13
Dry, good fruit – cellar it for two hundred years and it'll reach fourteen points. Selected stores.

Château de Coulaine, Chinon 1999 (organic) 16 £5–7
An organic red of mellow-textured, raspberry and cherry fruit with a delicious dry, slatey edge. 75 stores.

Château de Lausières, Coteaux du Languedoc 1999 16.5 £5.00
Smacks of savoury fruit and lithe tannins. A telling recipe of layered lushness and deep dry fruit. Excellent food wine. Selected stores

Château de Villenouvette, Cuvée Marcel Barsalou Corbières 1998 16.5 £7–10
Intense, warm, gently spicy, savoury, characterful, softly yet determinedly tannic and huge value for money. A lovely wine. 70 stores.

Château du Tasta, Premières Côtes de Bordeaux 1998 13 £5.00
Dry, very dry. Selected stores.

Château Jouanin Cuvée Prestige, Côtes du Castillon 1998 15 £5–7

Château La Rose Brisson St-Emilion Grand Cru 1998 16 £10–13
Deliciously woody and dry but this sensation is dispersed by the cassis-edged finish. An impressively cultured and perfectly mature claret.

Château Liversan, Cru Bourgeois, Haut-Médoc 1997 12 £7–10

Château Maison Neuve Montagne-St-Emilion 1998 15.5 £7–10

Château Montbrun de Gautherius Corbières 2000 16 £5.00
The texture is superb – close knit tannins hand in-leather-glove

with the rich fruit. Selected stores

Château Philippe de Vessière, Costieres de Nîmes 1997 15.5 £5.00

Château Pouchard-Larquey Bordeaux 1998 15 £5–7
Very typical '98 minor claret. Drink it now. The tannins will outlast the fruit.

Château Pouchard-Larquey, Bordeaux 1998 (organic) 15.5 £5–7

Château Rozier, St-Emilion Grand Cru 1998 13.5 £10–13
Too expensive for my pocket. Too dry for my tongue (and that is an instrument which relishes dry things). Selected stores

Château Salitis Cabardès 1998 15 £5–7
Extremely rich and deep with a very meaty finish. Selected stores.

Château Teyssier Montagne-St-Emilion 1998 15 £7–10
Severe claret but the Merlot saves the Cabernet from extinction. Big tannins. Best cellared for three or four years yet. Selected stores.

Château Tour du Mont, Haut-Médoc 1999 14 £5–7
Severe claret. Selected stores.

Château Troupian Haut-Médoc 1998 14 £7–10
Austere, bitter tannins to young brisk fruit. Possibly better cellared for another three to four years.

Château Villespassans St-Chinian 2000 17 £5.00
High class texture, thick yet not too dense, and the fruit delightfully illuminates the tannins. A quite terrific red for under a fiver. Most stores

Château Vircoulon Bordeaux 1999 16.5 £5.00
Fantastically well textured and chewy, this seems more like a premier cru than the humble bumpkin it is. Gorgeous fullness and depth. Quite scrumptious finish

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 1999, Safeway 12 £7–10
Very ripe and almost volatile.

Chevalier de Malle, Graves 1998 13 £7–10

Claret NV, Safeway 16 £5.00
Amazing deep chocolate fruit. Behind that pleonastic label lies a superbly well-textured claret of great style. Lovely rich tannins.

Corbières 2000, Safeway 13.5 £3.50
Very dry and earthy.

Crozes-Hermitage Etienne Barret 2000 15 £5–7
Has hints of typical coal-cellar-edged richness of Crozes but has more jammy berries than most.

Domaine Chris Limouzi, Corbières 1998 15.5 £5–7

Ineffably quaffably fruity and soft-minded. Hints of herbs and sunshine. Selected stores.

Domaine de l'Auris Syrah, Côtes du Roussillon 1998 16 £5–7
Marvellous turn of speed to the tannins, which whips the fruit into such delicious shape. Selected stores.

Domaine de Tudery St-Chinian 1998 16.5 £5–7
Chewy cocoa and coffee fruit (mainly black and logan berries) finish off a beautifully textured, tannically svelte red of great style. 70 selected stores

Domaine des Lauriers, Faugères 1998 17 £5–7
No nods to the New World here and what a triumph of plummy richness, spice, herbs and lovely polished, textured tightness it is. A delightfully daring wine. Selected stores

Domaine La Tour du Maréchal Merlot, VdP de l'Hérault 2000 (organic) 15 £5.00
Exceedingly plump and rounded in the mouth and then the tannins mug the palate with clods of earth. Selected stores

Domaine Montmija, Corbières 1999 (organic) 14 £5.00
Good herby ripeness and tannins.

Enclos des Cigales Merlot, VdP d'Oc 2000 16 £5.00
Severely tannic but the fruit still combats this forcefully to make its plummy, herby point. Resoundingly good quaffing here. Selected stores

Enclos des Cigales Syrah, VdP d'Oc 1999 15.5 £5.00

Fitou 1999, Safeway 13.5 £5.00
Very straightforward, simple quaffing with rather less impactful richness on the finish.

Fleurie Domaine des Raclets 2000 14 £5–7
Nice cherry fruit with excellent tannins. A serious red of surprising texture.

Gevrey-Chambertin Domaine Rossignol-Trapet 1998 12 £13–20
Higgledy-piggledy tannins and fruit – for £16 a poor buy.

Jean Louis Denois Grenache/Syrah/Mourvèdre, VdP d'Oc 2000 15 £5.00
Modern fruit, old-fashioned tannins. A dry, deep, rich wine of great interest to food. Selected stores

Jean Louis Denois Mourvèdre/Grenache, VdP d'Oc 1999 13.5 £5–7
Very ripe and palate pounding. Selected stores.

L'Enclos Domeque Syrah/Malbec, VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 £5.00
Deliciously smooth and rich and

with lovely warm, soft tannins. A terrific mouthful of textured fruit for the money.

L'If Merlot/Carignan, VdP du Torgan 2000 16.5 £5.00
Combines the best of both worlds, characterful tannins and rich, gently spicy fruit. Loads of flavour, buckets of personality, yet not OTT.

La Cuvée Mythique VdP d'Oc 1998 16 £5–7
One of the Oc's most elegant and well structured reds. Runs the gamut from Syrah to Cabernet Sauvignon brilliantly.

La Nature Rhône Valley Red 2000 14 £5.99
Country bumpkin style of tannins and grouchy fruit.

La Source Merlot/Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 16 £5.00
Very polished and full of fruit but has an undertone of characterful tannins and acids. Most impressive.

Merlot Reserve Mont Tauch, VdP du Torgan 1999 17.5 £7–10
Lovely rich colour and entertaining bouquet of chocolate and cigars. Terrific classy texture, hint of spice, complex layers of tannin and berried fruit and a very stylish finish. Selected stores

Merlot Vin de Pays d'Oc 2000, Safeway 16 £3.50
Super leathery texture (more Gucci than saddle bag) and lovely blackcurranty fruit. Excellent welcoming attitude and decisive finish. Fantastic value for money.

Minervois 2000, Safeway 15.5 £3.50
Fantastic value here: earthy, herby, juicy yet dry. Great tippling and good with food.

Minervois Domaine de Bayac 'Les Pierres Blanches' 1999 14 £5–7
Touch of ripe plums to the tannins. Selected stores.

Mont Tauch Merlot, Barrel Matured, VdP du Torgan 1998 17 £7–10
Superb tobacco undertones to the leather and plummy spiciness. The Pétrus of the Midi? Extraordinarily complex and beautifully textured richness Selected stores

Moulin de Ciffre Faugères 1999 13 £5–7
Too juicy. Selected stores.

Pinot Noir d'Autrefois VdP d'Oc 2000 14 £5.00
Rustic and ready. Interesting tannins and characterful fruit.

Pommard Premier Cru Les Arvelets 1996 12 £13–20

Red Burgundy 1999 13 £5–7
Rather austere on the finish.

Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000, Safeway 15.5 £3.50
Soft, spicy fruit of very yielding tannins. Has touches of

blackberry and leather, raspberry and plum

Vacqueyras Domaine la Bouscatière 1999 14 £5–7
Intensely soft and ripe. Not usual for this appellation. Selected stores.

Val Bruyère Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2000 14 £5.00
Nice plummy polish to it. Most stores

'Yellow Jersey' Rhône Valley Côtes de Ventoux 2000 14 £5.00
This Syrah/Grenache blend celebrates the Tour de France with simple plum and blackberry richness.

Young Vatted Grenache VdP de l'Ardèche 1999 15 £3.50

SAINSBURY'S RED

Beaujolais NV, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5.00

Beaujolais-Villages Les Roches Grillées 1999 12 £5–7

Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Louis Max 1999 13 £5–7
It's all right. Not bad. Passable – well, almost. Selected stores

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc NV, Sainsbury's 16 £3.50
Astonishing quality of fruit for a non-discounted £2.99 wine. JS must be congratulated for finding such rich, textured blackcurrants with their hint of cocoa, excellent tannins, and overall class

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 14.5 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Celliers des Dauphins Côtes du Rhône 2000 14.5 £5.00
The Rhône's worst label but not the ugliest wine. Oh no, for there are real tannins here, touch chauvinistic in their overbearance, but a wine of character emerges. Most stores.

Château Barreyres Cru Bourgeois, Haut-Médoc 1998 14 £7–10
A sweet little claret, i.e. it has charm to its fruit, but eight quid? Hmm . . . Selected stores.

Château Cazal-Viel St-Chinian Larmes des Fées 1998 13.5 £13–20
The fairies weep for the price (£19 which is mad) and sigh over the lovely tannins . . . but it's the price which sticks in the throat. 10 selected stores

Château Coufran Cru Bourgeois, Haut-Médoc 1996 13 £10–13

Château Fonreaud Cru Bourgeois, Listrac 1998 12.5 £10–13
Lot of money for an average claret. 138 selected stores

Château Gaubert, Corbières 2000 13.5 £5.00

Strong hints of tobacco to rich blackcurrants and damsons, touch of peach and raspberry. Has fine tannins to buttress this display of fruit. Selected stores.

Château La Tour Carnet, Haut-Médoc 1998 16 £13–20
No denying the toothsome presence of finely wrought tannins and very classy fruit. Other claret producers please copy (Even at £20 the bottle.) 138 selected stores

Château La Vieille Cure Fronsac 1997 16.5 £10–13
Great value claret offering stylish cedar wood and tobacco fruit with fine-grained tannins. A wine to muse over – as you read Tristram Shandy. Selected stores.

Château Moulin Canon-Fronsac 1996 16.5 £7–10
Wonderful aroma of charred wood and baked fruit with great tannins spiking the rich, deep warm fruit. Has great style and wit this wine. An outstanding claret. Selected stores.

Château Semeillan Mazeau Cru Bourgeois, Listrac 1996 14 £13–20

Château Tassin Premières Côtes de Bordeaux 1999 15 £5.00

Claret Cuvée Prestige, Sainsbury's 16 £5.00
Perfect ascension as the Sainsbury's own label clarets rise in price, so does the quality and rich fruit. Here there are superbly classy tannins and rich berries in first class, textured collusion Most stores

Claret, Sainsbury's 15 £3.50
Amazing! A three quid claret which gives you a penny change and makes a change from the usual run of such things with lovely rich charcoal edged fruit and mild tannins.

Claret, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 15.5 £5.00
Burnt fruit in fine fettle here and this slightly spicy, charred approach to claret makes for a really filling, savoury mouthful. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Classic Selection Brouilly 1999, Sainsbury's 13 £5–7
Has some meatiness about the fruit but is not entirely meet to my mind at seven quid. Most stores.

Classic Selection Châteauneuf-du-Pape 1998, Sainsbury's 15 £7–10

Classic Selection St-Emilion 1998, Sainsbury's 15.5 £7–10
Lovely texture, plump and gently edged with fine tannins. Has concentration and class.

Côtes du Rhône NV, Sainsbury's 13.5 £3.50

Côtes du Rhône NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 15.5 –£3.50
Rich, dry, gently earthy and deep, this is a very soft wine of gentle tannins and determined longevity in the mouth. Combines gutsiness with delicacy. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent

Crozes-Hermitage Cave de Tain 1999 16.5 £5–7
Amazing chocolate chewiness here and coal-edged tannins. Terrific texture, thick and darkly balsamic. Brilliant hearty quaffing – deliciously old-fashioned – and great with food. It has great exuberance and style, this wine.

Crozes-Hermitage Petite Ruche 1997 15.5 £7–10

Devereux Portan/ Carignan, VdP de l'Aude 2000 14.5 –£3.50
A simple, fruity party and pasta plonk. Most stores.

Domaine de Mas Blanc Coullioure 'Les Cosprons Levant' 1997 10 £13–20
Sweet, old-fashioned, ludicrously expensive, porty and raisiny. Presumably it would have been turned into dessert wine, the red Maury, but who drinks this nowadays? 10 selected stores.

Domaine des Bouziers Cabernet Franc VdP d'Oc 2000 16.5 –£5.00
Quite superb class to the texture, hints (heavy) of black cherries, plums and blackberries, good tannins (well-integrated) and an overall concentrated richness of calm, controlled deliciousness Selected stores.

Domaine Ellul-Ferrieres Vignes VdP d'Oc 1998 17 £5–7
It fills the nose and mouth with the pure, racy smells and flavours of Provence: sun on warm stones, Gitanes in yellow teeth, mimosa on dry hillsides, and earth as fecund as it's possible to be. 30 selected stores.

Eliane's Single Vineyard Corbières 'Gruissan' 2000 16 –£5.00
Curious elderflower and blackberry aroma leads to ripe fruit and assertive, clinging tannins. Classy, stylish, delicious. 120 selected stores

Eliane's Single Vineyard Minervois 2000 16 £5.00
Begins with sweet cherries, ends with chocolate and currants – a really delightful charmer for the palate. 120 selected stores.

Fitou 'Les Douzes' Mont Tauch 1998 15.5 £5–7
Dainty opening soon opens up to reveal hedgerow fruit, light tannins, and a very soft finish. 140 selected stores

Fleurie La Madone 2000 14 £7–10
Not bad, has tannins and personality and is even, vaguely, Fleurie-like.

French Revolution Le Rouge 1999 16 £5.00
Hugely different from its white cousin, in that there is real character and effortless fruit here. Great depth, marvellous tannins, firm, rich texture.

Gevrey-Chambertin Rodet 1998 11 £13–20
The meaning of life? It can stink. As does fine Burgundy. This is not amongst such. 140 selected stores.

Hautes-Côtes de Nuits Dames Huguettes 1998 13.5 £7–10

Heritage du Rhône 1999 15 £5.00
Beefy country-bumpkin style glugging. Has dry, earthy touches to the plums and blackberries. Limited distribution.

Jacques Frelin Crozes Hermitage 1999 (organic) 13 £7–10
Very very juicy which the tannins can do nothing to check. 80 stores

La Chasse du Pape Côtes du Rhône 1999 14 £5.00
Younger and softer in feel than previous vintages and lacking in bite. Selected stores.

Le Catalan Old Vine Carignan 2000 16 £5–7
What does the Carignan lack, by half a point, that the Grenache flaunts so spectacularly? Just a touch less adult dryness. 150 selected stores

Le Catalan Old Vine Grenache 2000 16.5 £5–7
Huge personality, chocolate-edged richness to a depth of plummy ripeness which stays judiciously the right side of overripeness. Great food wine. 100 selected stores.

Le Midi Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 17 £5.00
Utterly astonishing texture for the money (Médocs: eat your heart out) which brings together gorgeous tannins, concentrated blackcurrants and plums and a lingering finish. Selected stores

Le Midi Merlot 2000 16.5 £5.00
Terrific rascally fruit which combines a louche, aromatic richness (herbs, earth, old stoves) with polished leathery lushness. Great stuff. Selected stores.

Le Véritable Laurent Miquel Syrah Mourvèdre VdP d'Oc 2000 15 £5.00
A sweet cherry finish, touches of spice and cheroot, make this a spicy food red of aplomb and style. Selected stores.

Les Cassagnes Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 £5.00
Delicious roasted fruit, nutty, herby, dry and rich and lovely savoury tannins. The finish is soft and classy. Most stores.

Louis Bernard Côtes du Rhône-Villages 1999 16.5 £5.00
Superb rustic charmer with sophisticated manners and tannic style. Lovely herbs, earth and deep plum fruit which is gloriously unpretentious.

Marsannay Domaine Bertagna 1998 15 £7–10

Mercurey Clos La Marche 1997 13 £13–20

Merlot VdP de La Cite de Carcassonne, Caroline de Beaulieu £3.00
A mildly-dispositioned but delicious Merlot which oozes charm and good breeding

Minervois 2000, Sainsbury's 14.5 £3.50
A charming party wine of character and bite – not simply all gooey fruit. Most stores.

Old Git Grenache Syrah 1999 15.5 £5.00

Red Burgundy NV, Sainsbury's 13 £5–7
When I taste a Burgundy like this I question the meaning of life. The answer? Now, that would be telling

Régnié Duboeuf 1999 11 £5–7
Not as joyous as its label would pretend. Rather manufactured in feel. Selected stores

Réserve du General, Margaux 1997 15 £13–20
The general has taste and his Margaux is suitably reserved – a real warrior's tipple: brave, soft at heart, not remotely, outwardly, brusque. 80 selected stores.

Special Reserve Claret, Sainsbury's 16 £5.00
A bit special, but not reserved at all: rich, dry blackcurrants, hint of raspberry, touch of nut, and rich, fluent tannins A fine little claret of class and clout

Stowells of Chelsea Merlot VdP d'Oc (3 litre box) 15 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000, Sainsbury's (organic) 13 £5.00
Sweet and ever so mildly yawn-inducing. Selected stores

Valréas Domaine de La Grande Bellane 1999 (organic) 14.5 £5–7
Ripe, but has good tannins, touches of earth, and some herby richness.

Van Rouge, VdP de Vaucluse NV 15 £3.50
Simply charming, conceptually and fruitily. Has tannins and a hint of the sunny Provençal garrigues to back up its soft, easy-going fruit.

Vin de Pays des Bouches-du-Rhône NV, Sainsbury's 14.5 £3.50

Vin Rouge de France 13 £3.50
NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box)
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

SOMERFIELD RED

Brouilly Les Celliers de Bellevue 2000 14 £5–7
Drinkable, textured, expensive.

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50
Some good earthy fruit here of character and charm.

Château Blanca, Bordeaux 2000 15.5 £5.00
Tangy blackberries, chewy tannins and a delightful charcoal undertone.

Château Cazal Viel, Cuvée des Fées St-Chinian 1999 16 £5–7
Delightful cherries and plums and low-lying tannins which strike surprisingly softly and stealthily
Selected stores.

Château Plaisance, Montagne-St-Emilion 1997 14.5 £7–10
Expensive but has elegance and class to its brisk fruit softened by its tannins (rather than the other way round). Selected stores.

Château St-Benoit Minervois 1999 15.5 £5.00
It's the brilliant texture which wins it its points.

Château Valoussière Coteaux de Languedoc 1997 16 £5.00
Text book French red under-a-fiver: has bistro savouriness, bite and rich characterfulness.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine La Solitude 1999 14 £7–10
Rampancy and richness here – with matching price tag.

Claret 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50
One of the world's best value claret and no disgrace to a once-noble tradition. Has tannins and character.

Corbières Rouge 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Côte Sauvage Syrah Mourvèdre 2000 16 £5.00
So superbly quaffable.
Delightfully vibrant wine of rich, soft classiness and depth.

Côtes du Rhône 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50
Sweet basic fruit.

Côtes du Rhône-Villages 1999, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Very ripe sweet fruit with tannins to take the curse off its simplicity.

Côtes du Roussillon 2000, Somerfield 15 £3.50
Delicious fresh, uncluttered fruit. Total pure fruit charm.

Domaine de Courtilles Côte 125 Corbières 1999 16 £5–7

Soft and ripe but with hints of herb, touches of earth, and lovely subtle tannins. Selected stores.

Domaine La Tuque Bel Air, Côtes de Castillon 1998 15.5 £5–7
One of my favourite Somerfield clarets – to be wholly decanted three to four hours before drinking. Or cellared for two or three years more (at most).

Fitou Rocher d'Ambrée 2000, Somerfield 14 ~£5.00
Very chewy chocolate-edged fruit.

Gouts et Couleurs Syrah Mourvèdre VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 ~£5.00
Terrific warmth of soft blackberries and plums with soft, silken tannins

Hautes-Côtes de Beaune 1999 13 £7–10

Médoc 2000, Somerfield 14.5 ~£5.00
Lovely savoury tannins to the berries

Merlot VdP l'Ardèche 2000, Somerfield 14 ~£3.50
Party wine.

Oak Aged Claret 2000, Somerfield 14 ~£5.00
Soft and ripe and not overly tannic and claret like.

Old Git Grenache Syrah 2000 14 ~£5.00
Nothing old gittish about it. It's young and soft, gently plump and charming.

Organic Merlot Vin de Pays NV 15.5 ~£5.00
Superb tannins here connected to tobacco-subtle blackberry/plum fruit of excellent texture.

Red Burgundy 1998, Somerfield 10 £5–7
Sweet yet dry and unforgiving on the finish.

St-Emilion 2000, Somerfield 14 £5–7
Lip-puckering tannins and gripping fruit.

Stowells of Chelsea Merlot VdP d'Oc NV 12 ~£5.00
Boring.

Syrah VdP de l'Ardèche 2000, Somerfield 13 ~£3.50

Vacqueyras, Vignerons Beaumes-de-Venise 2000 16.5 £5–7
Gorgeous plums and blackberries with a hint of raspberry. Then there's the herbs (thyme), a touch of black olive, and the tannins. Quite a mouthful.

VdP de l'Ardèche Rouge 2000, Somerfield 13.5 ~£3.50

Vin de Pays Hérault 2000, Somerfield 11.5 ~£3.50

Winter Hill Rouge, VdP de l'Aude 2000 15 ~£5.00
Strikingly rich and ready to please.

SPAR RED

Beaujolais NV, Spar 10 ~£5.00
The astonishing thing is that one assumes it comes from grapes.

Claret NV, Spar 15 ~£5.00

Coteaux du Languedoc 2000, Spar 13 ~£5.00
Rich and deep and very casserole compatible.

Côtes du Rhône 1999, Spar 15 ~£5.00
Dry plums here, bit stretched on the finish

Côtes du Ventoux, Spar 1999 14 ~£5.00
Good simple unpretentious plums, cherries, earth and tannins.

Crozes-Hermitage 1999, Spar 13 £5–7
Dry and fails to clinch more points because of the aridity of the finish.

Fitou NV, Spar 16 ~£5.00
Touch of tar, tobacco, coffee, then blackcurrants, herbs and earth. A wonderful rustic mouthful

French Country Red NV, Spar (1 litre) 12 ~£3.50
Roughly rustic yet little character. Very dry. Price band shows the 75cl equivalent.

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Caves des Hautes-Côtes 1994 12 £13–20

Hautes-Côtes de Beaune 1995, Spar 10 £5–7

La Côte Syrah Merlot VdP d'Oc 1999, Spar 13.5 ~£5.00
Dry yet has touches of blackberry richness and tannins

Le Monstre Grenache Noir 2000 15 ~£5.00
Drinkable casserole red. Has some tannins of interest and fruit of depth. Selected stores.

Oaked Merlot 1999, Spar 14 ~£5.00
Ripe plums, soft tannins. Decent quaffing style.

Salaison Shiraz/Cabernet VdP d'Oc 1998, Spar 16 ~£5.00
Brilliant vivacious berries and classy tannins, tightly packed, and a terrific finish.

Shiraz VdP d'Oc 1999, Spar 13.5 ~£5.00
Rounded and very ripe.

Vin de Pays de lAude NV, Spar 10 ~£3.50
To call it basic flatters it. It has little to interest the wine drinker

Wild River Grenache 1999 13 ~£5.00
The sweet fruit and the dry tannins don't quite gel.

Wild River Merlot 1999 15.5 ~£5.00
Better than the Barolo (qv) for the money for it has similar tannins and equally gripping fruit.

TESCO RED

Beaujolais NV, Tesco 11 –£3.50

Beaujolais Villages 2000, Tesco 12 –£5.00
One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

Bordeaux Réserve Calvet 1998 14.5 £5–7
Very good warm claret with hints of smoked blackcurrant and charred plum. Has a very firm texture. Most impressive for the money. Selected stores

Cabernet Sauvignon Prestige VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 13.5 –£3.00
Terrific hint of tobacco to the tannins and blackcurrants. Superb texture and non-OTT ripeness here. Great quality glugging.

Cabernet Sauvignon Réserve 1998, Tesco 15.5 –£5.00

Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 14 –£3.50

Château Clement Pichon, Cru Bourgeois Haut-Médoc 1996 13 £13–20

Château de Côte de Montpezat, Côtes de Castillon 1998 16 £5–7
I love the savoury richness, almost charcoal-edged, to the rich fruit and its tannins are equally impressive. A brilliant wine for game dishes and rare roast dishes. Selected stores.

Château La Fleur Bellevue Premières Côtes de Blaye 1998 14 –£5.00

Château La Tour de Mons Bordeaux 1996 13.5 £13–20

Château Lafarque Pessac-Léognan 1996 12 £10–13

Château Liliane-Ladouys Cru Bourgeois Supérieur St-Estèphe 1996 12 £14–20

Chinon Baronnie Madeleine, Couly Dutheil 1999 16.5 £5–7
Superb cherries, blackcurrants, raspberries, lead pencils (the tannins) and a lingering finish of spicy cherry and walnut. A lovely elegant red of class and textured richness

Claret, Tesco 12.5 –£3.50

Clarity Bordeaux Rouge 1998 14 –£5.00

Corbières NV, Tesco 13.5 –£3.50

Corbières Réserve La Sansoure 2000, Tesco 13.5 –£5.00
One of Tesco's so called 'Finest' range. Most stores.

Côtes du Rhône NV, Tesco 13.5 –£3.50

Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2000, Tesco 16 –£3.00
Superb fruit here, touch sweet but the tannins save the day. A real approachable Rhône red of

texture and depth. Great glugging.

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Réserve Domaine de La Grande Retour 2000, Tesco 16 £5.00
Rich, meaty, soft. Excellent casserole companion. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores

Crozes-Hermitage Cave de Tain 1999 16 £5–7
Amazing chocolate chewiness here and coal-edged tannins. Terrific texture, thick and darkly balsamic. Brilliant hearty quaffing – deliciously old-fashioned – and great with food. It has great exuberance and style, this wine. Most stores.

Domaine du Soleil Syrah/Malbec VdP d'Oc NV 14.5 £5.00

Domaine Richeaume Organic Syrah Côtes de Provence 1999 16.5 £13–20
Impressively dry and deep, herby and splendidly rustic, but, and it's a delicious but, it has masses of class and concentrated charm. At Wine Advisor Stores.

Dorgan VdP de l'Aude NV 14 £3.50
Simple party plonk. Good with not-too-robust casseroles (for it has some tannins to it).

Fitou NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50

Fitou Réserve Baron de La Tour 1999, Tesco 16 £5.00
Excellent balance and bounteous tannins, herbs and warm, rich fruit of layered lushness yet dryness. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores.

Fleurie Louis Josse 1999 11 £5–7
Rather bland, if it does have some tannins (so we know, or rather we think we know, that perhaps grapes were used in its manufacture). Most stores.

French Cabernet Sauvignon Réserve, VdP d'Oc 1998 16 £5.00
One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Deliciously superior to the general run of claret, this warmly textured, sensually-fruited wine has immense character, layered richness, and charm.

French Merlot VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50

Gamay NV, Tesco 10 £3.50
I confess to finding it the least charming wine at Tesco. It's spineless. Most stores.

Gevrey-Chambertin Jean-Philippe Marchand 1998 12 £13–20
Unconscionably overpriced. Shocking example of Burgundy at fifteen quid. If it was £4.99 it might be different. Has some tannins to talk about. Limited distribution.

Grenache Prestige VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 13 £5.00

Very dry and difficult to catch as it finishes.

Grenache VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50
Very fruity but not OTT. Has good tannins and ripe cherry/strawberry fruit. Good chilled with barbecues. Most stores.

Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Les Caves des Hautes-Côtes 1998 13 £5–7
Juicy, authentic, dry, almost good – but at seven quid who needs it? Most stores

Hautes-Côtes de Nuits Louis Josse 1998 12 £5–7
Sweet yet dry, and basically dull. Most stores.

Juliénas Georges Duboeuf 1999 13 £5–7
Has some tannins. Selected stores.

Les Etoiles French Organic Red Wine NV 13 £5.00

Louis Jadot Beaujolais-Villages 2000 14 £5–7
Not bad at all for a Beaujolais. Has some cru-level tannins and it firms up nicely on the finish.

Margaux 1998, Tesco 14 £10–13
Ripe and ready but curiously muted tannin-wise. One of Tesco's 'Finest' range.

Médoc 1998, Tesco 14 £5–7
Remarkably couth tannins, blackcurrants and strawberries, deep, roasted tannins, and a very very very smooth texture. High class claret and very far from a high class price. Under the tutelage of Tesco Bordeaux can deliver. One of Tesco's 'Finest' range.

Merlot Prestige VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 13.5 £5.00
Nice warm richness and subtle savouriness here. Good casserole red.

Minervois NV, Tesco 14 £3.50

Oak Aged Red Burgundy 1998, Tesco 13.5 £5–7

Oaked Côtes du Rhône NV 13.5 £5.00

Perrin Vacqueyras 1998 14 £7–10
Juicy and ripe with attendant, rather over-obedient, tannins. Selected stores.

St-Emilion 1999, Tesco 14 £7–10
Has an unusually soft and baked fruit richness which gives texture, tenacity and real class. An impressive wine of dryness, leatheriness and classiness. Most stores.

Valréas Domaine de La Grande Bellane 1999 (organic) 14.5 £5–7

Vintage Claret 1998 14 £5.00
One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range, this has soft fruit of very typically claret dryness and blackcurrantiness.

Yvecourt Claret Bordeaux 1999 12.5 £5.00
A tautological specimen of very

tannic richness. Somewhat one-sided, I ached to blend it with a soft Aussie.

WAITROSE RED

Abbotts Ammonite 14 £5.00
Côte du Roussillon 1999
Very fruity and ripe. Good with robust vegetable dishes with tomato sauces

Beauchatel Claret, Bordeaux 1999 12 £5.00

Bistro Rouge VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £5.00
A good bistro food companion it is.

Boulder Creek Red VdP du Vaucluse 2000 13 £3.50

Cahors 1999 15 £5.00
A true Cahors. 100% Cot (or Malbec as it's called in Bordeaux). Dry, herby, uncompromising.

Château Beauchene Châteauneuf-du-Pape 1999 13 £7–10
Good aromatic opening, seems to go too sweet and hedgerow.

Château Calon Ségur Bordeaux 1997 14 £13–20
Typical St-Estèphe, best left for another five years for the tannins to really soften. Could be a classic.

Château Cazal Viel, Cuvée des Fées St-Chinian 1999 16 £5–7
Delightful cherries and plums and low-lying tannins which strike surprisingly softly and stealthily.

Château d'Aiguilhe Côtes de Castillon 1997 15 £7–10
Lovely smoked fruit and tannins. Mail Order only.

Château de Caraguilhes Corbières 1998 (organic) 13.5 £5–7
Sweeter than other vintages as I recall and less tannically tenacious.

Château de Castres Graves 1998 14 £7–10
Very elegant and ripe. Good gripping tannins.

Château de Targ, Saumur 1999 15.5 £5–7
A very delicious affront to those who say Loire reds are too austere. Here the prolonged cherry fruit finishes with mildly tannic precision.

Château des Jacques, Moulin-à-Vent 1999 14 £7–10

Château du Glana Cry Bourgeois St-Julien 1997 14 £10–13
Very aromatic and dry. Lot of money, though, for a performance like that.

Château Haut d'Allard Côtes de Bourg 1998 15 £5–7
Exciting time to be had here with the tannins.

Château Haut-Nouchet 15.5 £10–13
Pessac-Léognan 1998
(organic)
A very gripping claret of some weight and undoubted class.

Château l'Evangile, 16 £20+
Pomerol 1997
A beautifully structured claret of presence and power. Superb texture to it. Mail Order only.

Château Léoville- 15.5 £20+
Barton 2eme Cru
Classé, St-Julien 1997
Beautiful high class texture and tannins. A very ready St-Julien. Mail Order only.

Château Léoville-Las- 16 £20+
Cases 2eme Cru Classé,
St-Julien 1994
Superb tannins and ripe, soft structured texture. Only from Waitrose Direct

Château Pavie-Macquin 12 £20+
St-Emilion Grand Cru
Classé 1996
Not at the price I'm afraid. It's an eight quid wine at most. Mail Order only.

Château Pech-Latt, 15 £5–7
Corbières 1999
One of the more elegant of southern French organic reds

Château Rauzan-Segla 13.5 £20+
2eme Cru Class,
Margaux 1997
Mail Order only.

Château Tayac Cru 13 £13–20
Bourgeois, Margaux
1995

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 16 £7–10
Clos St-Michel 1999
A juicy C-d P with lovely dry savoury hints from the tannins.

Chinon Les Petites 13.5 £5–7
Roches 2000
Light cherries with slight flavour. Might be best cellared for fifteen months more.

Chorey-les-Beaune 14.5 £7–10
Domaine Maillard 1998
Roasted aroma, good texture and some weight to the finish. Fully decant two hours, maybe more, beforehand. Has some pretensions to class and, if cellared three to four years more, a higher points rating.

Côtes du Rhône 2000, 13 £5.00
Waitrose

Côtes du Ventoux 2000 13.5 £5.00

Crozes-Hermitage 13 £10–13
Domaine de Thalabert
1998

Domaine de Courtille 15 £7–10
Corbières 1999
Has sweet cherries mingling with herbs and hedgerows. Light tannins.

Ermitage du Pic Saint- 16.5 £5–7
Loup Coteaux du
Languedoc 1999
The tannins dally with the rich, herby fruit so daintily and

delicately yet so deliciously and decisively, you relax and simply bathe in this lovely civilised red wine.

Fleurie Montreynaud 2000 12 £7–10

Fortant Grenache VdP d'Oc 2000 16 ~£5.00
Absolutely delicious glugging here. The wine has depth, personality, structure and weight – and calm complexity on at least two levels. Yes, it's immediate and gently lush but its charm is huge.

Gevrey-Chambertin Domaine Heresztyn 1999 13 £13–20
Sweet touches.

Good Ordinary Claret Bordeaux NV, Waitrose 13 £5.00

Hermitage Le Pied de La Cote, Paul Jaboulet Aine 1998 12 £13–20

La Colombe Côtes du Rhône 1999 (organic) 14 ~£5.00

La Cuvée Mythique VdP d'Oc 1998 16 £5–7
One of the Oc's most elegant and well-structured reds. Runs the gamut from Syrah to Cabernet Sauvignon brilliantly.

La Nature Oaked Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 ~£5.00
Juicy plums with dry cherries as an aftertaste, with gently grilled nuts and tannic richness on the finish.

Les Quarterons St-Nicolas de Bourgueil 2000 15.5 £5–7
Delicious cherries and plums with a tang, an undertone, of minerality.

Maury, Les Vignerons du Val d'Orbieu NV 16 ~£5.00
A sweet red wine for chocolate-based puddings. Did I say sweet? It hardly does this complex wine justice.

Maury Vin Doux Naturel NV (half bottle) 16 £5.00
The absolute acme of chocolate-to go red wines and so it suits chocolate desserts brilliantly. Has confitured tannins, most preposterous and delicious.

Mercurery Rouge 1er Cru 'Les Puillets', Château Le Hardi 1998 13 £10–13

Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Aigues 2000 16 ~£3.50
Has tobacco hints and coffee but mostly it's the tannins which take the palate by storm.

Oaked Merlot VdP d'Oc 1999 14 ~£5.00

Parallele 45 Côtes du Rhône, Paul Jaboulet 1998 16 £5–7
Has a sense of rugged certitude to the herby softness and richness. Superb class.

Pommard Premier Cru Les Boucherottes 1999 12.5 £13–20
Good tannins here.

Prieurs de Foncaire, Buzet Grande Réserve 1998 15.5 £5.00

Saint Roche VdP du Gard 1999 (organic) 13.5 £5.00

Savigny-les-Beaune Caves des Hautes-Côtes 1999 13 £7–10

Seigneurs d'Aiguilhe Côtes de Castillon 1998 13 £7–10

Spécial Réserve Claret Bordeaux 1999, Waitrose 13 £5.00
Has some tannins at least.

Spécial Réserve Claret, Côtes de Castillon Limited Edition Millennium Magnum 1996 (magnum) 14 £5.60
Bargain claret in a big sexy bottle – the fruit is subtly sensual too and wears a thick, winter coat of nicely knitted tannins. Price bracket shows the 75cl equivalent.

St-Emilion Yvon Mau NV 13 £5–7

Volnay 1er Cru Les Caillerets, Clos des 60 Ouvrées, Domaine de La Passe d'Or 1996 10 £20+
Mail Order only.

Volnay 1er Cru Les Chevrets 1999 13.5 £20+
I grudgingly admit it has some class but thirty quid? No way.

Winter Hill Shiraz, VdP d'Oc 2000 14 £5.00
Really unpretentious quaffing: berries and smooth tannins in fine collusion.

ASDA WHITE

Chablis Premier Cru Fourchame 1999 15 £10–13
Nice tangy mineral laziness. Hint of chewiness on the edge lends charm. Selected stores

Chardonnay, Jardin de la France 1999 14 £3.50

Château Perruchot Meursault 1998 12 £13–20
Bit sharp – like the price tag. Limited distribution

Chenin Blanc Loire 1999, Asda 14 £3.50

French Connection Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £5.00
Has a dry apricot opening which seems to turn faintly nutty then goes dry and peachy – not a huge variation in fruit then (or complexity).

L'Enclos Domeque Dry Muscat VdP d'Oc 2000 14 £5.00
It is dry and the grapey spiciness a suggestion only. An aperitif style of shy fruitiness

Louis Maynard Anjou Blanc NV 13.5 £3.50

A trifle sweet but not sweet like a trifle – thus it has some chillable acidic qualities which make it acceptable as a torrid weather whistle-wetter.

Louis Maynard 14.5 £3.50
Sauvignon Blanc Ackerman NV
Has a good raspberry fruitiness, a firm texture and a very faint herbaceous undertone

Mâcon-Villages La Colombier 2000, Asda 14 £5.00
Nutty, faintly vegetal, dry white wine of agreeable restraint. Has a good nuttiness on the finish.

Pouilly-Fuissé Antoine de Peyrache 1999 13 £7–10
Has some flinty charm but the price sucks.

Pouilly-Fumé Les Cornets 1999 14 £7–10
Nice chewy fruit. Most engaging – till you see the price tag
Selected stores.

Sancerre Les Noble Villages Caves de Sancerre 2000 13 £5–7
Has some tangy edges to conventional fruit with a slightly tart undertone.

Sancerre Vieilles Vignes Patient Collat 1999 14.5 £7–10
More concentration and crispness from this Sancerre and the gooseberry fruit has a disarmingly restrained richness. Has an elegant, classy finish.

Tramontane Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Asda 14.5 £5.00
Nice touch of ripe gooseberry to the minerals. Great fish wine.
Selected stores.

Vouvray Denis Marchais 1999 10 £5.00

Xanadu Secession Sémillon Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5–7
Ripe blend of melon and lemon – fairly straightforward approach – some texture on the finish.

BOOTHS WHITE

Bergerac Blanc NV, Booths 14 £3.50

Bourgogne Chardonnay Domaine Joseph Matrot 1999 12 £5–7

Chablis Domaine de l'Eglantière 1999 12 £7–10

Château Crabitan Bellevue St Croix du Mont 1996 16.5 £5–7
Delicious waxy, honeyed fruit with hints of strawberry and crème brulée. Too delicate for complex puds, treat it as an aperitif.

Château Lamothe Vincent, Bordeaux 2000 14 £5.00
Dry but has pleasing lilt of gooseberry on the finish. Good fish wine.

Château Petit Roubie, Picpoul du Pinet 2000 13.5 £5.00
(organic)
Great change from Chardonnay. Has dry fruit of bite and wit.

Château Turcaud Entre-Deux-Mers 2000 13 £5.00
Very austere. Touch of raw grass to the finish

Clos de Monestier Bergerac Blanc 2000 12 £5.00
Dry and unresponsive to affection.

Clos de Monestier Bergerac Rosé 2000 14 £5.00
Dry, cherryish fruit

Côtes du Rhône Domaine Chaume Arnaud 1999 15 £7–10
Sweet liquorice and blackberries. Very attractive on the rich finish.

Domaine de Pellehaut Côtes de Gascogne 2000 14 £5.00
Great value fruity slurping.

Gewürztraminer d'Alsace Turckheim 2000 16 £5–7
Very rich roseate fruit of spice and vibrancy. Perfect with oriental food.

James Herrick Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 1999 16 £5.00
Always one of southern France's most elegant examples of this absurdly fashionable grape variety.

La Passion Blanc VdP de Vaucluse 2000 14 £3.50
Has a touch of cloying pear to the melon and the result is most effective

Louis Chatel sur Lie VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £3.50
Very dry and fish friendly.

Muscadet sur Lie La Roche Renard 2000 13 £5.00
Very dry and austere.

Pouilly-Fumé Les Cornets, Cailbourdin 2000 16.5 £9–10
Bit expensive for the style of the fruit.

Riesling d'Alsace Aime Stentz 1999 14.5 £5–7
Very elegant aperitif or for robust support for smoked fish.

St-Véran Domaine des Deux Roches 1999 16 £5–7
Lovely texture to this vintage gives the vegetality reach, depth and elegance.

Vermentino Les Yeuses VdP d'Oc 2000 15 £3.50
Delicious dry charm here. Has balance and bite

Vin Blanc NV, Booths 12 £3.50

BUDGENS WHITE

Bordeaux Sauvignon NV, Budgens 13.5 £5.00

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV, Budgens 13.5 £3.50

Fat-edged melony fruit with a hint of ripe melon.

Devereux Premium Cuvée Viognier NV 15.5 £5.00
Delicious textured ripeness and classy apricot finesse – has good assistance from the acids. Overall, a very charming, well-balanced wine. Excellent value for money.

Domaine Fouassier Sancerre Les Chasseignes 2000 13 £7–10
Bit flat on the finish and for eight quid who needs a flat cap?

French Connection Grenache Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14 £5.00
Rich, hint of spice, good with Thai food.

Kiwi Cuvée Chardonnay VdP du Jardin de la France 2000 14 £5.00
Ripe, rather lemony richness. A very good fish wine.

Kiwi Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc, VdP du Jardin de la France 2000 14 £5.00
Herbaceous and very crisp. Has a touch of celery to the undertone.

'L' Grande Cuvée VdP d'Oc 1999 15.5 £5–7

La Baume Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15.5 £5.00
Classy style of nuttiness, melonosity and fine, interwoven lemon acids.

Premium Oaked Chardonnay VdP d'Oc, Devereux NV 14 £5.00

CO-OP WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 2000 16.5 £5–7
Superb texture, chewy and rich, lovely rosy fruit with hints of mango and lychee, and altogether gently spicy enough for Thai food. Superstores only.

Calvet Reserve White 1999 11 £5.00
Strives to be ordinary – and succeeds triumphantly.

Chardonnay-Chenin Vegetarian NV, Co-op 12.5 £5.00

Château Pierrousselle Entre-Deux-Mers 2000 14.5 £5.00
Great shellfish candidate.

Chevalière Réserve Chardonnay 1999 12 £5.00

French Organic Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Co-op 14 £5.00
Rich and good with grilled tuna.

French Organic White 2000, Co-op 14 £5.00
Chewy simplicity. Great with fish 'n' chips.

James Herrick Chardonnay 1999 16 £5.00
Always one of southern France's most elegant examples of this absurdly fashionable grape variety.

Monbazillac Domaine du Haut-Rauly 1998 (half bottle) 16.5 £5.00
Superb waxy richness here. Gorgeous honeyed fruit with touches of Brazil nut, lemon, mango, lychee and . . . ugli fruit. Well I never. Superstores only.

Montagny Premiere Cru 1998 13 £7–10

Orchid Vale Chardonnay Grenache Blanc 1999 13.5 £5.00

Rhône Valley White 1999 14 £3.50

Sancerre Domaine Raimbault 1998 13 £5–7

Vin de Pays d'Oc Chardonnay Viognier NV, Co-op 13.5 £5.00
Works with shellfish. Superstores only.

Vin de Pays d'Oc Chenin Chardonnay NV, Co-op (vegetarian) 12 £5.00

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah Rosé NV, Co-op 11 £3.50

Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Co-op 14.5 £3.50

Vin de Pays du Jardin de la France Sauvignon Blanc NV, Co-op 12 £3.50
Pretty dull. Superstores only

KWIK SAVE WHITE

Les Oliviers French White NV 14.5 £2.50
Astonishing value for money. It has graceful lemon fruit of surprising charm.

Muscadet 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Skylark Hill VdP du Comte Tolosan 2000 15 £3.50
Quite delicious tangy lemon fruit.

Winter Hill White 2000 14 £5.00
Has a good texture and warmth to it with a fresh edge as it finishes

M & S WHITE

Bordeaux Sauvignon 2000 16 £5.00
A very elegant labelling fully echoing the very elegant fruit within. Has soft-fruit tension with good acids. A very accomplished white wine

Chablis Grand Cru Grenouille 1995 14 £20+
A very fine Chablis offering under-ripe melon, subtle lemon, sesame seeds and a controlled texture of elegance and elongation. However, £23 is a lot of money.

Chablis Premier Cru Fourchaume 1997 13.5 £10–13
Nutty and elegant but poor value compared with M&S white Aussies

Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Morgeot 'Les Senteurs' 1998 10 £20+
When you spend £27 on a white you generally expect excitement and a haute-couture cut. This wine, au contraire, seems ragged to me. I'd much rather drink the M&S St-Véran at a fraction of the price.

Château La Gordonne Côtes de Provence Rosé 2000 13.5 £5.00
Very dry and absent-fruited.

Coeur de Vallée VdP d'Oc 2000 16.5 £5.00
The label's stuck on crooked but the fruit's straight, bounteous (yet delicate on the finish) and very charming. It treats the taste buds to a courteous medley of ripe pear, pineapple and very very subtle passion fruit. All this fandango, however, is gentle.

Domaine de Castellas Côtes de Roussillon 2000 15 £5.00
Even has a few tannins to play with and it is a deliciously playful, cherry-dry rosé of some class.

Domaine de Chevaunet Touraine Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15.5 £5.00
Elegant, clean, fresh, very crisp, delicious

Domaine de La Pouvraie Vouvray 2000 15 £5.00
Lovely dry honey, lime and good undertoning minerals. Finishes very clean and steely. However, cellar it for five to eight years and a really brilliant wine will emerge.

Domaine Galatis Chardonnay/Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 £5.00
Delicious blend of rich melon and delicate apricot: bold, refreshing, very modern.

Domaine Mandeville Viognier 2000 15 £5.00
Quiet apricots, subdued lemons, judicious acids – a muted performance? Not at all: just subtle.

Gold Label Barrel Fermented Chardonnay Reserve 2000 15.5 £5–7
What elegance! What quiet resolve! What simple fruity deliciousness! The harmony of wood and fruit is perfect

Gold Label Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000 16 £5.00
More oak than I remember on this established M&S brand and it adds complexity and depth and more weight to the wine's main argument – which is, take me seriously.

Gold Label Sauvignon Blanc VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 £5.00
Touches of richness to the firm crisp fruit give it food versatility and solid quaffability.

Les Ruettes Sancerre 2000 14.5 £7–10
Hints of celery, coriander to the

regulation gooseberry which is very crisp and fresh. A very individual interpretation of success

Mâcon-Villages 2000 15 £5-7
A very sound, solidly-packed white Burgundy of some class.

Mercurey Premier Cru Domaine de La Grangerie 1999 15 £10-13
Nicely textured creaminess to the mild fruit but I'd be inclined to cellar this for two to three years to let its vegetal Burgundianess to develop and, possibly, bloom to greater deliciosity.

Pouilly-Fumé Les Vignes de Saint-Laurent-l'Abbaye 2000 15.5 £7-10
Classic style with an undertone of fine melon, lemon, minerals and steely acids. Very elegant, prim, correct.

Rosé d'Anjou 2000 12 £5.00
Slightly sweet and very simple on the finish.

Rosé de Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 £5.00
One of the most gripping rosés I've tasted. Has delicious dry cherries and tart plums in perfect collusion.

St-Véran Les Monts 1999 16 £5-7
A marvellous white Burgundy of unpretentious yet telling richness (creamy yet not OTT), gentle vegetality and very insistent fruitiness on the finish. Yet, for all this, it has serious class and texture.

St-Aubin Premier Cru Domaine du Pimont 1998 13.5 £10-13
Bit austere and awkward on the finish to rate higher. And I think cellaring will make it finer.

Sancerre Domaine Hubert Brochard 2000 13 £7-10
Rather pricey and has a subtle bitter edge. Overpriced.

Silver Tree Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5-7
Some weight and richness here, much of it from the wood ageing, but it seems a bit raw on the finish.

VdP des Côtes de Gascogne 2000 14 £3.50
A pleasing little tipple with hints of pineapple and pear. A good aperitif style.

Vin de Pays du Gers 2000 13.5 £3.50
Delightful fresh fruit, tangy and light, recalling pear and pineapple.

MORRISONS WHITE

Château Lafont Menaut Pessac-Leognan, Graves 1999 16 £7-10
Brilliant chewy texture and well textured fruit. Lovely ripe feel, good acids, pert finish.

Falcon Ridge Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £3.50
A remarkable price for such good clean underripe melon fruit.

Falcon Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 £3.50
Excellent lemony fruit and touches of gooseberry.

Gewürztraminer Preiss Zimmer 2000 15.5 £5–7
Hints of lychee and rich rose petals and a touch of cumin. Delicious oriental food wine.

Haut-Poitou Sauvignon Blanc NV 14 £3.50

Pinot Blanc Preiss Zimmer 2000 14 £5.00
Delicious lemony fruit.

St-Véran 2000 14.5 £5–7
Gentle plump melon and very subtle lemon acids. Has elegance and class.

Sancerre La Renardière 1999 12 £7–10

Sichel Premières Côtes de Bordeaux Blanc NV 12.5 £5.00

Vouvray Les Grands Mortiers, Pierre Guery 2000 16 £5.00
Terrific! One of the most adventurous white wines in the store. Dry honey and pineapple, lovely acids and . . . and the capacity to develop, if cellared, for six or seven years

SAFEWAY WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 2000, Safeway 15 £5–7
Rich and typical (roses, touch of lychee and gooseberry) but better kept for eighteen months (Christmas 2002) to develop more and high rating charms.

Chablis Premier Cru Beauroy 1999 13 £10–13
Rather a lot of pretence, not a lot of substance – except on the price tag.

Chablis Laroche 1999 12 £7–10

Château de La Gravelle, Muscadet de Sèvres-et-Maine Sur Lie 2000 16 £5.00
Has more concentration than the de l'Ecu and more lilting minerals on the finish. A very stylish Muscadet.

Château Magneau, Graves 1999 15 £5–7

Chenin VdP du Jardin de la France 2000, Safeway 13.5 £3.50
Very respectable balance but a touch woolly on the finish.

Corbières Rosé 2000 13.5 £5.00
Dry plums, touch of black cherry.

Domaine de Bosquet Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000 13.5 £5–7
Dry but has a fleshy edge of under-ripe melon. A Safeway theme with its 2000 whites - this dryness. Selected stores.

Domaine de Ciffre Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000
Very dry and unyielding. Selected stores.

Domaine de l'Ecu Muscadet de Sèvres-et-Maine sur Lie 2000
Deliciously tangy – almost Sauvignon-like in its gooseberryishness. Classy hint of mineral depths.

Domaine La Tour du Maréchal Chardonnay, VdP de l'Hérault 2000 (organic)
An intensely dry specimen of Chardonnay but very crisp. Great food wine. Selected stores

Domaine Lafage Muscat Sec, VdP d'Oc 1999

French Revolution Le Blanc 1999
Crisp but with a bitter finish.

James Herrick Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 1999
Always one of southern France's most elegant examples of this absurdly fashionable grape variety

La Source Chardonnay/ Roussanne VdP d'Oc 2000
Terrific plump fruit, oily and deep, and it has excellent balancing tannins.

'Les Caudanettes' Anjou Blanc 2000
Slightly sweet finish.

Montagny Premier Cru 1998, Safeway

Pinot Blanc Alsace 2000, Safeway
Lovely rich apricot touches with an undertone of subtle toastiness

Pouilly-Fuissé 1998, Safeway
Absurd price for such dried out views on life. Selected stores.

Sancerre 'Les Bonnes Bouches' 2000
Bad value lacklustre fruit Selected stores

Sauvignon Blanc Cuvée Réserve VdP d'Oc 2000
Almost there. Selected stores.

St-Véran 1997

Touraine Sauvignon 2000
Lovely crisp, dry wine of great interest to food – and fun-lovers. It is quintessentially French and stylish. Finishes with aplomb. Selected stores.

VdP de l'Ardèche Rosé 2000, Safeway
Light cherry fruit.

Via Domitia Chardonnay/Viognier Réserve Spéciale, VdP d'Oc 2000
Bit fat and muddy on the finish. Selected stores.

Viognier Cuvée Réserve, VdP d'Oc 2000 14 £5.00
Mild apricots in dry array
Selected stores

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Ackerman Anjou Blanc 2000 (organic) 14.5 £5.00
Touch of sweet melon to the gentle lemon richness. Touch forward? Maybe. But as a hot-weather refresher it has much to commend it. Selected stores.

Antonin Rodet Meursault 1998 12 £13–20
Difficult to justify the juice when it comes with so lush a price.

Big Frank's Deep Pink 2000 13 £5.00
Playful, adolescent, cherry ripe fruit. Selected stores.

Bordeaux Blanc, Sainsbury's 13.5 £3.50
Remarkable price for such clean, crisp fruit (mainly under-ripe gooseberry and vague melon). The label sucks, but the fruit sings

Bourgogne Chardonnay, Louis Max 1999 15.5 £5–7
Delightful stuff, showing how elegant and subtly vegetal le vrai bourgogne blanc can be. Dry, a touch delicate, it's decisively delicious. Most stores.

Chablis Calvet 1999 14 £5–7
Has some texture, a hint of melony plumpness, and some degree of class.

Chablis Premier Cru Côtes de Jouan, Brocard 1999 16 £10–13
Expensive but fine. Has concentration, crisply tailored classiness, and a delicate yet decisive finish.

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV, Sainsbury's (organic) 13.5 £5.00
Even has some tannins to it! This gives it a slightly chewy texture to its fruity, fresh, concentrated finish. Remarkable value. Most stores

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 13.5 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Château de Rully Blanc, Rodet 1998 13 £10–13
Rather boredom-inducing for so extravagant a bar code. Selected stores

Château Tassin Bordeaux Clairet 2000 14.5 £3.00
Serious dry rosé. Great with food, entertaining with mood. Selected stores

Classic Selection Chablis Domaine Sainte Cecil 1999, Sainsbury's 16 £7–10
Well, well! Indeed it's classic: dry and minerally, and with that

sedate crispness which good Chablis has. Most stores.

Classic Selection Pouilly-Fumé 2000, Sainsbury's 16 £7–10
I confess to liking it. To finding it crisp and steely, minerally and fresh, elegant and subtle. To confess is good for the soul.

Classic Selection Sancerre 2000, Sainsbury's 15.5 £7–10
Am I getting old? or is Sancerre getting more amusing? I suspect the latter. I fear the former Selected stores

Condrieu Guigal 1998 15.5 £15–20

Cuvée Victoria Rosé de Provence 2000 14.5 £5–7
Nice bitter nut and sour peach aftertaste as the cherry fruit goes down. Selected stores.

Domaine de Pellehaut Côtes de Gascogne 2000 14 £5.00
Great value fruity slurping. Most stores.

Domaine de Sours Bordeaux Rosé 2000 14 £5–7
Serious, sober, plum/cherry rosé. Expensive, yes. But if you must have rosé . . . then . . . Selected stores.

Domaine Leonce Cuisset, Saussignac 1998 (50cl) 15.5 £5–7
Sainsbury characterise this as a dessert wine but its sweet delicacy is more pre- than post prandial. It is honeyed, yes, but it has a finesse which brutal puds will smother. Limited distribution

Duo Rosé d'Anjou and Anjou Blanc NV (3 litre box) 14.5 £3.50
This is a novel twin-tap wine box with the rosé on the bottom and the blanc on top. This is not quite how it works out point wise. the blanc rates 14 points, the rosé 14.5. A commendable initiative from Sainsbury's buying team which will undoubtedly be copied. Most stores.

French Revolution Le Blanc 1999 14 £5.00
Crisp but with a bitter finish.

Le MD de Bourgeois Sancerre 1999 15 £10–13
An interesting Sancerre with few rich minerals but a beautiful textured plumpness not Rubenesque so much as Giacomettiesque. Expensive but classy. Limited distribution.

Le Midi Rosé, Languedoc 2000 13.5 £5.00
A good barbecue fish wine. Selected stores.

Le Midi Viognier 2000 16 £5.00
Delicious! Dry apricots, hint of nut, touch of lemon/melon on the finish. Classy stuff, very crisply and smartly turned out. Selected stores.

Mercurey Blanc 14 £13-20
Domaine La Marche Les Rochelles 1998
Expensive but has a lingering richness reminiscent of the real thing, i.e. posh farmyards complete with cow dung. Limited distribution.

Meursault Clos de Mazeray, Domaine Jacques Prieur 1998 11 £20+
A lot of money, not a lot of excitement. Limited distribution.

Mouton Cadet Blanc 1999 12 £5.97
Rather dull and overpriced.

Numero Un Bordeaux Blanc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Dry. Selected stores.

Petit Chablis Jean Brocard NV (3 litre box) 15.5 £5.00
Amazing! Real Chablis in a box. Here is style and steeliness in vibrant Chablis form in three litres of generous cardboard luxury. Has classic mineral richness. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Picpoul de Pinet 'Les Flacons' Coteaux du Languedoc 1999 16 £10-13
A very engagingly textured, finely wrought white wine. It's classier and more impactfully individual than many a white Burgundy which would look askance at this wine on the same shelf

Puilly-Fuissé Georges Duboeuf 1998 13.5 £10-13
Lot of money, not entirely a lot of wine for eleven quid. A four quid wine masquerading as something else. Limited ditribution.

Réserve St Marc Sauvignon Blanc, VdP d'Oc 2000 16.5 £5.00
Superb tang of gooseberries, limes, minerals and tightly packed acids. Very classy and finely styled. Most stores.

Touraine Sauvignon Le Chalutier 2000 15.5 £5.00
Quite delicious citrussy fruit. Selected stores.

Van Blanc, VdP de Vaucluse NV 14.5 £3.50
A perfectly charming, dry, crisp white of style and texture. Has a fine tang to its finish. Selected stores

Vin Blanc de France, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 12 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 15 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Vouvray La Couronne des Plantagenets 2000 15.5 £5.00
Brilliant new vintage of this off-dry wine which is more sec than it might appear. It has lovely minerals to the dry fruit and it

ages superbly. I'm drinking the '94 at home now.

White Burgundy NV, Sainsbury's 14 £5–7

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Anjou Blanc 2000, Somerfield 12 £3.50

Bordeneuve Blanc VdP des Côtes de Gascogne 1999 13 £5.00

Chablis 1998, Somerfield 12.5 £7–10
Has some mildly amusing texture to it

Chablis Premier Cru Cottin Freres 1999 11.5 £10–13

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Has some vague melon fruit.

Côte Sauvage Chardonnay Viognier 2000 15 £5.00
Delicious apricot/melon/hazelnut and lemon fruit. Dry, expressive, individual. Selected stores.

Côte Sauvage Cinsault Rosé d'Oc 2000 15 £5.00
Lovely dry cherries and strawberries Remarkable couth fruit.

Domaine du Bois Viognier, Maurel Vedeau 1999 15 £5–7
Dry peachy fruit of some charm.

Domaine Sainte Agathe Oak Aged Chardonnay 1999, Somerfield 15 £5–7
More texture and interesting vegetal fruit than many a white Burgundy.

Gewürztraminer d'Alsace, Turckheim 2000 16 £5–7
Superb nuttiness here with a lingering lychee and rose petal finish. Predictable but not dull. Very good value. Selected stores

Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Blanc, Georges Desire 1998 13 £7–10
Bit expensive . . . more than a bit . . .

James Herrick Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000 15 £5.00
So far Penfolds haven't screwed it up. But why the cork, Penfolds? Screwcap it, you cowards!

Kiwi Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc, VdP du Jardin de la France 2000 14 £5.00
Herbaceous and very crisp. Has a touch of celery to the undertone

La Baume Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £5.00
Lemon and dried peach and fig fruit.

Laroche Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5–7
Rich yet not OTT. Selected stores.

Muscadet 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Old Tart Terret Sauvignon 2000 13.5 £5.00

Rosé d'Anjou 2000, Somerfield 12.5 £3.50
Too sweet - a touch.

Sancerre Domaine des Grand Groux 2000, Somerfield 13 £7–10
Oddly fat and chewy.

VdP de l'Ardèche Blanc 2000, Somerfield 15 £3.50
Simple lemon fruit of striking charm for the money.

VdP du Comte Tolosan 2000, Somerfield 15 £3.50
Quite delicious tangy lemon fruit.

Vouvray 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Off dry – and has good honey and minerals. It will cellar well for three of four years and become very interesting.

White Burgundy 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £5–7
Decently assembled, gently vegetal fruit with a crisp finish.

Winter Hill White 2000 14 £5.00
Has a good texture and warmth to it with a fresh edge as it finishes.

SPAR WHITE

Chablis 1998, Spar 15 £5–7
Good, genuinely classy fruit, hints of soft vegetality and a classic finish. Good mature fruit

French Country VdP de l'Hérault White NV 13 £5.00

La Côte Chasan Chardonnay 1999 14 £5.00
A good balance of fleshy-fruit and pert acidity.

Salaison Chardonnay Sauvignon 1999, Spar 13.5 £5.00
Rather austere on the finish.

Unoaked Chardonnay 1999, Spar 13 £5.00
Mild, inoffensive fruit of gentle citricity.

Vin de Pays de l'Aude NV, Spar 14 £3.50
Simple, fruity, tangy, lemony.

White Burgundy Chardonnay 1996, Spar 13 £5–7

Wild River Terret Sauvignon 1999 14 £5.00
Has some melon character and some underpinning lemon.

TESCO WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 1999, Tesco 17 £5–7
What a wonderfully complex, rich yet subtle, energetic, spicy wine of huge charm. At its price it's a marvel: lemon, lime, apple, pear, gooseberry and ripe melon yet . . . not OTT. Brilliant with Chinese food, beautiful with literary mood. One of Tesco's so-

called 'Finest' range. At most stores

Alsace Riesling 1999, Tesco 14.5 £3-7
Very dry and gently mineral-tinged. Terrific fish wine – brilliant with fruits de mer. Part of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. At most stores.

Anjou Blanc NV, Tesco 13 £3.50

Bergerac Blanc NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50
Utterly unpretentious. Supremely slurpable and refreshing: crisp, clean, uncluttered. Most stores

Cabernet de Saumur Rosé NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.00

Celsius Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé, VdP d'Oc 2000 14 £5.00
Rich, energetic, touch toffee-edged, and dry. Good food rosé.

Celsius Medium Chardonnay, VdP d'Oc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Sweet edged but good with Chinese spicy food. Most stores

Chablis 2000, Tesco 15 £5-7

Chablis Premier Cru 1998, Tesco 16 £10-13
An exceptionally rich and complex Chablis of considerable concentration and class. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

Chardonnay Barrel-aged Reserve, VdP d'Oc 1999 13 £5.00
One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range, so it might be good and it is. It displays well-integrated melon/lemon/nutty fruit with a softness and richness balanced by the gentle woodiness

Chardonnay Réserve 1999, Tesco 14 £5.00

Château Baratet Blanc 1999 (organic) 14 £5.00

Château Talmont 2000 16 £5.00
Interestingly tangy white Bordeaux of crisp fruit attack and huge shellfish friendliness without tartness. Superb value for money. Selected stores

Côtes du Rhône Blanc NV, Tesco 15 £3.50

Côtes du Rhône Rosé, AC Côtes du Rhônes 2000 14 £5.00
Mild, dry cherry fruit.

Domaine Cazal Viel Viognier 1999 16 £5-7
The moment the beautiful golden liquid flows into the glass and you raise it to the eye, then the nose, you know you're in for a treat. And so it transpires as you raise the wine to the lips and the taste buds revel in subtle apricot fruit, lemon and a hint of nuttiness. A lovely, elegant wine of some class and smoothly textured delivery.

Domaine du Soleil Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV 14 £5.00

Domaine du Soleil Sauvignon/ Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV 14 £5.00

Entre-Deux-Mers NV, Tesco 13.5 £5.00

French Chardonnay NV, Tesco 13.5 £3.50

French Chenin Blanc NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50

French Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000, Tesco 16 £5.00
Interesting edge to the wine makes it less full, more quirky than the New World versions of this grape. It's a grassiness. Brilliant for food. Most stores.

Kiwi Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc, VdP du Jardin de la France 2000 14 £5.00
Herbaceous and very crisp. Has a touch of celery to the undertone.

Les Estoiles Organic Chardonnay/Chenin VdP d'Oc NV 13.5 £5.00

Les Quatre Clochers Chardonnay 1998 12.5 £5–7

Mâcon-Villages Blanc 2000, Tesco 15 £5.00
Unusually fruity for this appellation. In the New World mould, almost. Most stores.

Muscadet NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50
Amazingly well-meaning, crisp, clean finishing Muscadet of charm and character. Superb shellfish partner. Remarkable value for money.

Muscadet sur Lie 2000, Tesco 14 £5.00
Fresh and crisp. Hint of mineral undertone but it's just a hint. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

Oak Aged Bordeaux NV, Tesco 13 £5.00
Finishes well but in the mid palate it seems lost and ill-defined Most stores

Oak Aged White Burgundy 1999, Tesco 13 £5–7
Bit ordinary compared to the glorious New World Chardonnays Tesco sells. Part of Tesco's 'Finest' range. Most stores.

Petit Chablis 1999, Tesco 13 £5–7

Pouilly-Fuissé Louis Jadot 1998 11 £13–20

Pouilly-Fumé Cuvée Jules 1999 13 £7–10
Bit ho-hum on the finish for seven quid.

Sancerre 2000, Tesco 16 £5–7
Goodness, what a crisp clean specimen of subtle gooseberriness. Excellent price for a real classic Sancerre. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores

Vouvray, Tesco 12 £5.00

WAITROSE WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 1999, Waitrose 16 £5–7
Superb spicy succulence without over-ripeness.

Alsace Pinot Blanc, Paul Blanck 1999 14 £5–7

Anjou Blanc Ackerman 1999 13 ~£3.50

Bordeaux Blanc Medium Dry, Yvon Mau NV 12 ~£3.50

Bordeaux Sémillon 2000 13.5 ~£5.00
Very elegant, well textured fruit of great charm

Boulder Creek White 2000 13 ~£3.50

Chablis Gaec des Reugnis 1998 14.5 £7–10

Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir 1998 11 £13–20

Chablis, William Fèvre 1999 13 £7–10
Oily, slightly austere finish.

Chardonnay VdP du Jardin de la France 2000, Waitrose 13.5 ~£5.00
Touch tart on the finish.

Chassagne-Montrachet Bouchard Père 1999 13 £20+

Château Carsin Cuvée Prestige 1998 15 £7–10
Very elegant and accomplished feel to it.

Château Climens Barsac 1996 (half bottle) 13 £13–20
Very sweet and monodimensionally so. Mail Order only.

Château de Caraghuiles Organic Rosé 2000 14 £5–7
Elegant and serious-minded

Château La Garenne Sauternes 1997 13.5 £13–20
Needs ageing, five to ten years of it.

Château Liot Sauternes 1997 (half bottle) 14 £7–10
Still rather sweet and little else, so cellar it for five years.

Château Petit Roubie, Picpoul du Pinet 2000 (organic) 15.5 ~£5.00
Great change from Chardonnay. Has dry fruit of bite and wit.

Château Rieussec, Sauternes 1996 (half bottle) 15 £13–20
Lovely oily and waxy honeyed stuff. Still five to seven years off its best, though. Mail Order only.

Château Saint-Jean-des-Graves, Graves 2000 10 £5–7

Château Thieuley, Bordeaux 2000 15 £5–7
Lovely style to the texture and subtle, vegetal fruit.

Château Vignal Labrie, Monbazillac 1997 16 £7–10
Lovely honeyed, waxy fruit with

nuts and raspberries. Will age well for five to eight years more

Coteaux du Giennois Blanc 1999 14.5 £5–7
Classy stuff.

Fortant 'F' Limited Release Chardonnay, VdP d'Oc 1998 13 £7–10
Far too expensive. Touch of creamy oak is unsettling rather than sympathetic.

Huet Clos de Bourg Demi-sec, Vouvray 1999 17.5 £7–10
Don't be put off by the demi-sec bit – it has superb acids which give it great balance (and fifteen years of cellaring capacity). It has hay, minerals, honey and butterscotch, and a lingering finish of pear soufflé.

La Baume Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £5.00
Has some good dry apricots.

La Cité Chardonnay, VdP d'Oc 2000 13 £5.00

Mâcon-Villages Chardonnay, Cave de Lugny 2000 14 £5.00
A mildly entertaining white Burgundy.

Mercurey Blanc Château le Hardi 1999 12 £10–13

Montagny Premier Cru Bouchard Père 1998 10 £7–10
Over ripe and too extracted in feel. Tries too hard.

Muscadet sur Lie 'Fief Guerin' 1999 13 £5.00

Muscat Sec Domaine de Provenquiere, VdP d'Oc 2000 16 £3.00
Wonderful dry grapeyness with hints of nuts, pear and peach, and a deep finish.

Muscate de Beaumes-de-Venise NV (half bottle) 15.5 £5.00
Lovely thick texture and very vague hint of sweet marmalade on the finish. For ice creams and fresh fruit puddings.

Pinot Gris Grand Cru Rangen de Thann Clos St Urbain, Domaine Zind Humbrecht 1996 18.5 £20+
Magnificent beast! Has sesame seeds, figs, raspberries and melons, plus minerals and fine acids. Still young, it'll age eight to ten years more but it's great now. Only from Waitrose Direct.

Pouilly-Fuissé Château Vitallis 2000 11 £10–13

Pouilly-Fumé Masson Blondelet 1999 14.5 £7–10
Extremely dry, impishly lemony and dry. Very steely and stylish.

Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Champs Gains 1997 13 £20+

Quincy La Boissière 1999 13 £5–7

Rosé d'Anjou 2000, Waitrose 11 £5.00

50% Grolleau grape variety is too much, I feel

Saumur Blanc 'Les Andides' Saint Cyr-en-Bourg 1999 14 ~~£8.00~~

Tokay Pinot Gris Heimbourg, Domaine Zind Humbrecht 1998 17 ~~£20+~~
17 now, possibly 20 in three to five years. Quite wonderful sweet apricots and wild raspberries with delicious mineral acids. A great French white wine of world class structure.

Top 40 Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 1999 12 ~~£5.99~~
Better than many a Meursault this creamy, woody wine. It has delicacy yet lingering power and real deep class.

Touraine Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Waitrose 12 ~~£5.00~~

Vin Blanc Sec VdT Francais NV, Waitrose 12 ~~£3.50~~

Winter Hill Syrah Rosé, VdP d'Oc 2000 13 ~~£5.00~~
Very ripe and sweet.

Winter Hill VdP d'Oc 1999 15 ~~£3.50~~

GERMANY

Crushed by UK consumer indifference. However, the great estates can still produce the greatest white wines on the planet.

TESCO RED

Fire Mountain Pinot Noir 1999 10 £5.00
The label, at least, is stuck on straight. Selected stores.

WAITROSE RED

Dornfelder Pfalz Lergenmüller 1999 16 £5–7
Love it! It's like dry Beaujolais with a touch of dry Rhône. Joyous and full-throated fruit.

ASDA WHITE

Grans Fassian Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett Altarchen 1999 13 £5–7
Cellar it for eight years. It'll put on four or even five points of weight, complexity and concentration.

BOOTHS WHITE

Dr 'L' Riesling, Loosen Mosel 1999 14 £5–7
Needs to be cellared for three or four years yet.

Fire Mountain Riesling 1999 14 £5.00
Simple aperitif style with a hint of fat melon to an edge of lime.

Gau-Bickelheimer Kurfurstenstuck Auslese 1998 13 £5.00

Liebfraumilch NV, Booths 13 £3.50
Very off-dry style, not fully sweet, with a nuttiness – an excellent spritzer component.

Piesporter Michelsberg NV, Booths 12 £5.00
Very sweet and simple.

Riesling Louis Guntrum 1999 14 £5.00

Villa Wolf Pinot Gris, Loosen Pfalz 1999 16 £5–7
Exceedingly civilised peach, apricot, pineapple and lemon fruit. A most striking German dry white of great charm.

BUDGENS WHITE

Devil's Rock Riesling 2000 14 £5.00
Nothing wrong with this. Pity it doesn't have a screw cap.

CO-OP WHITE

Bockenheimer Grafenstuck Beerenauslese 1998 (half bottle) 16 £5.00
Lovely limey acids and mineral hints to ripe honey fruit with an undertone of raspberry and mango. Best cellared for another five to eight years to achieve almost perfection. Superstores only.

Devil's Rock Riesling 2000 14 £5.00
Nothing wrong with this. Pity it doesn't have a screw cap

Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese 1999 13 £5.00
Excellent spritzer. Superstores only.

Kendermans Dry Riesling 1999 11 £5.00
I've lost my patience with this dullard. Not at Convenience Stores

Twin Rivers Riesling 2000 13 £5.00
Screw-capped and mildly fruity. Not at Convenience Stores.

KWIK SAVE WHITE

Hock NV, Somerfield 14.5 £2.50

MORRISONS WHITE

Franz Reh Auslese 1999 16 £5.00
Delicious undertone of crème brulée to the honeyed raspberries and pears. Brilliant wine to have after a meal just by itself

Kendermans Dry Riesling 1999 11 £5.00
I've lost my patience with this dullard

Noble House Riesling 2000 14 £5.00
A fine off-dry aperitif.

Urziger Wurzgarten Spätlese 1999 14.5 £5–7
Bit young and will improve if cellared for up to five years. Has sweet pineapple and good acids.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Langenbach St Johanner Spatlese, Rheinhessen 2000 10 £5.00
Bit bare of excitement. Has some sugar if you like that sort of thing.

Mertes Riesling Classic Medium, Pfalz 1999 11 £3.50
Pretty. Nothing much.

Peter Mertes Dry Riesling 1999 12.5 £3.50
Sweet edged simpleton.

SA Prum Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett 1997 16 £5–7
Lovely lime, pear, raspberry and melon richness which never goes sweet because of the superb liveliness of the acids.

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Devil's Rock Masterpiece, St Ursula 1999 13 £5.00
Crisp but finishes with a nod to sweetness. A masterpiece it is not. Most stores.

Dr Pauly Riesling 1999 13 £5–7
Lay it down for five years. Selected stores.

Hock, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 14.5 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Liebfraumilch, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 14 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese 1999 9.5 £5.00
Terrific lemony, almost sweet custardy fruit. Has a gentle chewiness which gives it class. A lovely aperitif or to go with smoked fish.

Querbach Hallgartener Schonhell Rheingau Riesling 1997 16 £5–7
Has good structure and texture with subtle touches of melon, raspberry and lemon, with attendant minerals in good array Will improve in bottle for ten years more. 70 selected stores.

Schloss Wallhausen Riesling Kabinett 1999 16 £7–10
Delicious apricot/strawberry/lime fruit with the typical regional fix (Nahe) on Riesling which provides a rich undertone to the excellent minerally acids 75 selected stores.

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Blue Nun Riesling 1999 13.5 £5.00
Not bad – but expensive for the label.

Hock NV, Somerfield 14.5 £2.50

Kendermann Mosel Riesling 1999 14.5 £5.00
Sweet and sour with hints of tanginess. Great Thai food wine.

Kendermann Pinot Grigio 1999 15 £5.00
Extraordinary! As good as the real thing from Italy. Nuts, peaches and a dry crisp finish. Selected stores

Morio Muskat 2000 15.5 £3.50
Lovely Muscat richness tempered by limes and pineapple. Great refreshing stuff. Selected stores.

Niersteiner Gutes Domtal 1999, Somerfield 12 £3.50
Good spritzer ingredient, though.

And if you add mint and cucumber, even better.

Niersteiner Gutes Domtal, Johannes Egberts 1999 14 £5.00
Lay it down for five years and achieve some bargain 16.5 fruit of honey, lime, raspberry and cherries.

Niersteiner Spiegelberg 1999, Somerfield 14 £3.50
Try it with Peking duck.

Oppenheimer Krotenbrunner Rheinhessen Spätlese, Johannes Egberts 1999 12 £5.00

Rheingau Riesling 2000, Somerfield 15 £5.00
Lovely dry honey and lemon. Superb torrid weather aperitif.

Rheinhessen Spätlese 1999, Somerfield 13 £5.00
A sweetish ingredient for a spritzer.

Rudesheimer Rosengarten 2000, Somerfield 11 £3.50

St Ursula Dry Riesling 2000 14.5 £5.00
It works! Try it! Try it with fish 'n' chips – they need each other.

SPAR WHITE

Grans Fassian Riesling 1996 16 £5–7
Lovely sherbet lemon and mineralised rich fruit of great class. Only just beginning to open up, this wine; it could be cellared for up to ten or fifteen years more

TESCO WHITE

Bernkasteler Graben Riesling Kabinett 1999 15 £5–7
Interesting ripe melon edge with the mineral citrus of the Riesling typicity showing up as it slides down the throat. Best left to age for five to seven years more when it will rate even higher. Selected stores.

Carl Erhard Rheingau Riesling 1999 14 £5.00

Fire Mountain Riesling 1999 14 £5.00
Simple aperitif style with a hint of fat melon to an edge of lime.

Grans Fassian Riesling 1999 14.5 £5–7
Needs time to develop: five or six years yet but has some evidence of its quality already in its rich fruit and acids

Steinweiler Kloster Liebfrauenberg Kabinett, Tesco 14 £5.00

Steinweiler Kloster Liebfrauenberg Spätlese, Tesco 13 £5.00

WAITROSE WHITE

Bernkasteler Badstube Spätlese Dr Thanisch 1997 14 £7–10

A warm weather aperitif.

Devil's Rock 13 £5.00
Masterpiece, St Ursula 1999
Crisp but finishes with a nod to sweetness. A masterpiece it is not.

Dr Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 1995 15 £10–13
Extruded minerals and honey richness which achieves impact yet subtlety. A gorgeous, civilised aperitif.

Dr Wagner Ockfener Bockstein Riesling 2000 15 £5–7
Delicious change from Chardonnay: rich melons and great acids with a touch of honey.

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese 1990 15.5 £7–10
Mature Mosel for nine quid! Snap it up! It's a brilliant aperitif.

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese 1997 16.5 £5–7
Superb minerals, packed inside melons, pears, limes and raspberries, and they emerge on the finish as going gently petroleum-like and fine. Will age for the next eight to ten years and actually improve. A great wine for nigh-peanuts.

Hedgerow Rheinhessen 2000 13 £5.00

Kendermann Vineyard Selection Dry Riesling 1998 13.5 £6.00

Riesling Bassermann Jordan, Pfalz 2000 13 £5–7
16 in five to seven years. So cellar it!

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese, Egon Müller 1999 10 £20+
10 points now. 20 points in 2015. Sixty pounds is a lot of money. 20 points is a lot of points. But can you wait a decade and a half? Mail Order only.

Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett, Egon Muller 1999 13 £13–20
Must not be drunk now. Cellar it until the end of New Labour's third term . . . Mail Order only

Villa Wolf Pinot Gris 1999 14 £5–7
Charming if a touch delicate in a way which walks a thin line between Alsatian Pinot Gris and Friuli Pinot Grigio.

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 1990 17 £13–20
One of the finest aperitifs in the world. Trouble is, what follows? Only from Waitrose Direct.

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese, JJ Prum 1994 15 £13–20
Getting richer and more minerally as it ages. But still a decade off its 18.5 point best. Mail Order only.

GREECE

The world's biggest curate's egg.

BOOTHS RED

Vin de Crete Kourtaki 1999 12 £5.00

TESCO RED

Grande Reserve Naoussa 1996 14 £5–7

Tannins nudge the vague plum and blackcurrant fruits into richness - needs robust Greek roast lamb to be at its best.

WAITROSE RED

Pathos Xinomavrou, Tsantali 1999 15 £5.00

Very beefy and rich and a wonderful companion with like minded plates

BOOTHS WHITE

Kretikos Vin de Crete Blanc Boutari 1999 13 £5.00

Odd sweet edge of under-ripe melon. Needs spicy food.

TESCO WHITE

Santorini 1999 16 £5.00

Lovely richness and acidic freshness combined in a very stylish way. An exceptionally striking Chardonnay under a fiver. Most stores

HUNGARY

Not living up to the promise of its best estates.

BUDGENS RED

Riverview Kékfrancos/ Merlot 2000 13.5 ~£5.00
Very juicy.

CO-OP RED

Hungarian Country Wine NV, Co-op 13 ~£3.50

Kékfrancos Oaked Merlot 1999, Co-op 13 ~£5.00
Very jammy and half baked. Not at Convenience Stores.

SAFEWAY RED

Riverview Kékfrancos/ Merlot 2000 13.5 ~£5.00
Very juicy. Most stores.

SPAR RED

Misty Mountain Merlot NV, Spar 13 ~£5.00

TESCO RED

Reka Valley Hungarian Merlot, Tesco 13 ~£3.50

Riverview Kékfrancos/ Merlot 2000 13.5 ~£5.00
Very juicy. Most stores.

ASDA WHITE

Badger Hill Hungarian Sauvignon 1999 14 ~£3.50

Hungarian Medium Chardonnay 1999, Asda 12 ~£3.50

BOOTHS WHITE

Chapel Hill Oaked Chardonnay, Balaton Boglar NV 13.5 ~£3.50
Lemony and dry.

Tokaji Harslevelu Castle Island 2000 13.5 ~£5.00
Edgy fruit.

BUDGENS WHITE

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 14 ~£5.00
Bargain fruity tippling. Not a brash edge in sight.

CO-OP WHITE

Chapel Hill Irsai Olivér 2000 13 ~£3.50
Slightly spicy.

Gyöngyös Estate Chardonnay 1999 14 ~£5.00
Fresh with a sense of frolicsome fruit

Hungarian White NV, Co-op 11.5 ~£3.50

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 15 ~£5.00
Bargain fruity tippling. Not a brash edge in sight.

MORRISONS WHITE

Ideal with Friends Chardonnay NV 12.5 ~£3.50

'M' Ideal with Friends Sauvignon Blanc NV 13 ~£3.50

Oliver Irsai Olivér 2000 12 ~£3.00
Spicy. Good with gung-ho chilled chicken from Nepal.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Hilltop Virgin Vintage Sauvignon Blanc 1999 16 ~£5.75
In the Kiwi '96 vintage class: grassy and greengage fruited. Most stores.

Irsai Olivér 2000, Safeway 14 ~£3.50
Delicious, fruitily spicy aperitif. Most stores.

Karolyi Estate Private Reserve 2000 13.5 ~£5.00
Bit austere and taut. Most stores.

Mátra Mountain Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Safeway 13 ~£5.00
Dry, simple, for fish. Most stores.

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 15 ~£5.00
Bargain fruity tippling. Not a brash edge in sight. Most stores.

Riverview Gewürztraminer 2000 14 ~£5.00
Very mild and a touch uncertain. Will age well for the Christmas stocking. Selected stores.

Riverview Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 ~£5.00
Nice grassy touch to the gooseberry finish. Selected stores.

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Hungarian Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé NV, Sainsbury's 11 ~£3.50

SPAR WHITE

Misty Mountain Chardonnay NV, Spar 13 ~£5.00

TESCO WHITE

Emerald Hungarian Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15.5 ~£5.00
Has an interesting herbaceous undertone which fits nicely with

the melon fruit and lemon acidity. Terrific value for money. Not at all stores

Nagyrede Estate Barrel Aged Pinot Grigio/ Zenit 1998 16 £5.00
Superb little throat charmer! Highly stylised, rich/dry fruit, with a solidly engaging finish. Terrific price for the class. 100 selected stores

Reka Valley Chardonnay NV, Tesco 12 £3.50

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 15 £5.00
Bargain fruity tippling. Not a brash edge in sight.

WAITROSE WHITE

Deer Leap Gewürztraminer, Zemplen 2000 16.5 £5.00
Superbly elegant gewurz, with subdued spice, beautiful texture and a lychee finish.

Deer Leap Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5.00
Fantastic value for such classy, gooseberry fruit. Better than many Sancerres.

Matra Springs 2000 14 £3.50
A very acceptable warm weather aperitif. Very elegant screwcap to it

Nagyrede Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé 2000 14 £3.50
A light cherryish rosé of light charms.

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 15 £5.00
Bargain fruity tippling. Not a brash edge in sight.

ITALY

Fantastic potential from top to bottom.

ASDA RED

Barolo Veglio Angelo 1996 14 £7–10

Big Mamma's Italian Red NV 14 £5.00
Tastes like a tomato and olive pasta sauce already.

Cantele Zinfandel Salento 2000 14 £5.00
Made by Aussie in Italy's heel using California nomenclature (Primitivo's the local name for the Zin grape) and so the result is exuberant fruitiness brilliantly capable of dining out, or indeed in, with Indian food.

Chianti 1999, Asda 12 £3.50

Chianti Classico Riserva 1997, Asda 14 £5–7

Puccini Chianti Reserva 1997 14 £5.00

Ruvello Cabernet Sauvignon Passito 1998 17 £7–10
An individual Cabernet of urgency yet complex, lingering, slow-moving finishing strength. Dry yet rich and delicate, earthy yet not inelegant, gentle tannins with tension and great class. A delicious mouthful

Solara Organic Rosso, Nero d'Avola 2000 15 £3.50
Very fruity and full of flavour but doesn't overplay its hand here courtesy of good balancing acids.

Villa Cerna Chianti Classico 1998 15 £5–7
Lovely savoury herby fruit and rich tannins. Selected stores

BOOTHS RED

A Mano Primitivo Puglia 2000 15.5 £5–7
Delicious ripe plums, touches of chocolate and tobacco and dark cherries and this is all stitched together by warm tannins.

Amarone Classico Brigaldara 1996 16.5 £13–20
Sweet liquorice and fig fruit, fine tannins, textured and ripe, and black cherries to finish.

Archidamo Pervini Primitivo di Manduria 1997 15.5 £5–7

Barocco Rosso del Salento 1999 11.5 £3.50
Sweet plums with earthy tannins. Good curry red.

Chianti Leonardo 2000 14 £5–7
Dry and earthy yet finishes with an interesting cherry herbiness.

Col di Sasso Toscana 1998 14 £7.00

I Promessa Sangiovese Puglia 1999 13.5 £5.00

La Piazza Rosso 1999 (Sicily) 13.5 £3.50
Sweet tobacco fruit.

Valpolicella Classico Superiore, Viviani 1997 15 £7.10
Rich and rampant, sweet and dry – the usual paradox where Valpol is concerned.

Valpolicella Classico, Viviani 1999 13 £5–7
Not in the class of its more expensive cousin.

Veneto Salice Salento Vallone 1998 15 £5.00
Raisiny ripe damsons and cherries. Great pasta plonk.

Vigna Flaminio, Brindisi Rosso 1997 14 £5–7
Sweet, thick and curry friendly.

BUDGENS RED

Il Padrino Sangiovese 2000 (Sicilia) 13.5 £5.00
Elegant, ripe, textured and concentrated. Food will love it.

Trulli Primitivo Salento 1999 14.5 £5.00
Sweet dry-to-finish fruit excellent with curried chicken dishes.

Valpolicella NV, Budgens 12 £3.50
Juicy.

CO-OP RED

Barrelaia NV, Co-op 13 £5.00

Bona Terra Organic Merlot 1999 13 £5.00
Ho hum. Superstores only.

Il Padrino Rosso Sicilia 1999 13 £5.00

Inycon Merlot 1999 (Sicily) 13.5 £5.00
Juicy but not injudiciously so and the savoury tannins are excellent. Terrific food wine.

Otto Santi Chianti Classico 1999 13 £5–7
Oddly inconclusive finish. Superstores only.

Puglia Primitivo Sangiovese 2000, Co-op 13 £5.00
Delicious raspberries and plums with hearty tannins and touches of basil. Vibrant personality here.

Trulli Primitivo del Salento 1998 14.5 £5.00

Valpolicella NV, Co-op 12 £3.50

Zagara Nero d'Avola Cabernet 2000 13 £5.00
Juicy and paranoid. Not at Convenience Stores.

KWIK SAVE RED

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Very dry yet very juicy. A conundrum solved by spicy food.

M & S RED

Amarone Classico della Valpolicella Villalta 1997 16.5 £10–13
Combines figs, raspberries, savoury tannins, plums and cassis, cocoa and chocolate – this is a full rich spread from a great wine.

Barolo 1996 13.5 £13–20

Canfera 1997 14.5 £7–10

Chianti Classico Basilica Cafaggio Single Estate 1999 16 £7–10
Delicious tobacco-rich fruit, fine tannins, elegance to the texture, grip to the finish. Very classy stuff.

Italian Table Red Wine NV (1 litre) 14 £3.50
A screwcapped litre of simple plums. Has a soft, rich, very quaffable texture. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2000 15.5 £7–10
Great energy from the ripe plums and dashing tannins.

Reggiano Rosso Single Estate 2000 13 £5.00
Sweet and curry friendly.

Rosso di Puglia 2000 15 £3.50
Very bright and breezy fruit with good tannic grip nevertheless.

Sangiovese di Puglia 2000 15.5 £5.00
Tastier than many a Chianti. Has the same grape . . . But . . . has added warmth and sensual tannins

Valpolicella Classico Single Estate 1999 15 £5.00
Lovely texture offering integrated cherries and plums with tannins. Very soft and yielding.

MORRISONS RED

Casa di Monzi Merlot 1999 13 £5.00

Inycon Merlot 2000 16.5 £5.00
One of Italy's greatest Merlots: brilliant texture and richness here.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Uggiano 1999 14 £5.00
Brisk tannins to ripe cherries and dry plums.

Vino Rosso di Puglia NV 13.5 £4.50
Cheerful enough with bangers and mash

SAFEWAY RED

Alto Varo Rosso di Puglia 2000 13 £5.00
Selected stores.

Araldica Albera Barbera d'Asti Superior, Piemonte 1999 14 £5.00
Sweet cherries and a touch of herb. Most stores

Canaletto Nero d'Avola/Merlot 2000 13 £5.00
Most stores.

D'Istinto Sangiovese Merlot 1999 (Sicily) 13.5 £5.00
Very dry and brooding.

Italia Negroamaro 2000 13 £5.00
A simple juicy curry red.

Italia NV 13 £5.00

La Nature Organic Nero d'Avola 2000 (Sicily) 14 £5.00
Nice plumpness and texture to the rich fruit. Selected stores.

Melini Chianti 1998 12 £5.00
Rather dull and obvious.

Sentiero NV 13 £3.50

Sentiero Rosso NV (3 litre box) 11 £3.50
Ordinary, very ordinary. Most stores

SAINSBURY'S RED

A Mano Primitivo Puglia 2000 15.5 £5–7
Delicious ripe plums, touches of chocolate and tobacco and dark cherries and this is all stitched together by warm tannins. Most stores.

Alario Barolo Riva 1995 10 £20+
Dry, dusty, some grudging tannins, but little Barolo classicism. Currently at two stores, but will extend to thirty early in 2001.

Alessandra Colonna Barbera del Monferrato 1998 13.5 £13–20
A lovely rich fulsome expression of richness and softness – but at £5.99 not £15.99. 50 selected stores.

Allora Negroamaro 2000 14 £5–7
A sweet curry wine of ripeness and richness.

Araldica Albera Barbera d'Asti Superior, Piemonte 1999 14 £5.00
Sweet cherries and a touch of herb. Most stores

Barbera d'Alba Fontanelle, Ascheri 1999 16.5 £7–10
Superb liquorice, figs, black cherries and fine tannins Compelling price for such riches. Selected stores

Barco Reale di Carmignano Capezzana 1999 16 £7–10
Very impressive class of tannin you encounter here and this dominates the sweet fruit which, thus tamed, can simply get on with entertaining the palate sweetly and suavely. Selected stores.

Barking Mad 15% Primitivo 2000 15 £5.00
Not remotely insane. The balance of alcohol and tannin is perfect, sane, very tasty. Most stores.

Barolo Cantine Rocca Ripalta 1995 15 £10–13

Chianti la Capannuccia 1999 14.5 £3.50
Amazing value. Dry, rich fruit, slightly smoky and spicy, with deep and decisive tannins. A great pasta plonk.

Classic Selection Barolo 1996, Sainsbury's 13.5 £10–13
A lot of money for a wine of moderate impressiveness. 200 selected stores

Classic Selection Chianti Classico 1997, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5–7

Emporio Nero d'Avola Merlot 2000 13 £5.00
Sweet berries, rich dark tannins, and a soupy texture of ripeness and readiness. Leaps out of the glass, so eager is it. Good spicy food companion. Not at all stores.

Inycon Syrah 2000 (Sicily) 16 £5.00
Beautiful fruit, quite beautiful. The tannins' subsidiary role is entirely proper here for the fruit richly and ripely strides forward with great confidence.

Morellino di Scansano Riserva 1997 16 £7–10
A wonderful food wine of great energy and elongated, fruity richness. Warmly textured and extremely deep – like an old knitted cardigan worn by Isaiah Berlin. 100 stores

Natio Organic Chianti, Cecchi 1998 13.5 £5–7

Poliziano Rosso di Montepulciano 1999 13.5 £7–10
Touches of baked Tuscan earthiness to ripe plums and a hint of cherry custard. Fine tannins, too. 100 selected stores.

Promessa Rosso Salento 2000 13.5 £5.00
Lovely ripe, soft fruit, slightly richly baked, but has fine tannins. Most stores

Rosso di Provincia di Verona NV, Sainsbury's 12 £3.50
Screwcapped, as all wines ought to be, this has mild sweet fruit of medium impact

Sangiovese di Sicilia 2000, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5.00
A fine wine. To take to the Tandoori Caf.

Sicilia Red, Sainsbury's 13 £3.50

Teuzzo Chianti Classico 1998 13 £5–7
Has some interesting tannins and dry plummy fruit, but a touch overpriced for the style.

Valpolicella, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 12 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

SOMERFIELD RED

Bardolino 2000, Somerfield 12 £3.00
Cherries, thin on top.

Bright Brothers Negroamaro Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £5.00
Raspberry, blackcurrant, figs – very rich, dry fruit.

Cabernet Sauvignon delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield 13 £5.00

Chianti Serristori 2000, Somerfield 13 £5.00

D'Istinto Sangiovese Merlot 1999 (Sicily) 13.5 £5.00
Very dry and brooding.

Il Padrino Syrah di Sicilia 2000 16 £5.00
Soft and ripe, polished yet deep, rich and very ready. A lovely wine.

Inycon Merlot 2000 16.5 £5.00
One of Italy's greatest Merlots: brilliant texture and richness here.

Merlot delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Cheering cherry-ripe stuff.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Very dry yet very juicy. A conundrum solved by spicy food.

Sicilian Red 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50
Warm and richly textured. Great with mildly spicy food.

Terrale Sangiovese di Puglia 2000, Somerfield 14.5 £5.00
Brilliant tarry texture with lovely liquorice, blackberries, plums, strawberries and figs.

Tre Uve Ultima 1999 16.5 £5–7
So vivacious yet elegant. So rich yet understated. So potent yet precise and unfussy. So tightly textured and teasing. Selected stores.

Tre Uve VdT 2000 16 £5.00
Vibrant cherries and dark damson fruit with remarkable tannins

Tuscan Red 2000, Somerfield 12 £5.00
Intensely dry and austere.

Valpolicella 2000, Somerfield 12 £3.50

SPAR RED

Barolo 'Costa di Bussia' 1996 15 £13–20
The second best red at Spar? Over thirteen quid it ought to be for it has classy tannins, big deep berries and a lingering, stylish finish. Very compacted wine.

Chianti 1999, Spar 13 £5.00
Doesn't add up to £4.50's worth of fruit in my book.

Chianti Classico Le Fioraie 1995 10 £7–10
Outpriced by a considerable

factor. Underfruited in proportion.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 1999, Spar 12 ~£5.00
Sweet and juicy.

Pasta Red NV, Spar (1 litre) 11 ~£3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Riva Vino da Tavola NV, Spar 10 ~£3.50
I was glad to spit it out.

Sangiovese del Rubicone Arienta NV, Spar 11 ~£5.00
Very thin and meagre as it finishes.

Valpolicella NV, Spar 10 ~£5.00
Cosmetic aroma, dry dull fruit, haywire finish.

TESCO RED

Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico 1998 14 £7–10
One of the more engaging expensive Chiantis. Very fine tannins. Selected stores

Barbera d'Asti Calissano 1999 14 ~£5.00
Barbera with curried lamb's brains? Why not? OK, try it with mushroom risotto instead.

Chianti 1999, Tesco 12 ~£3.50
Very thin to finish.

Chianti Classico Riserva 1998, Tesco 16.5 £5–7
Ah! A Chianti to get excited about. Has elegance yet bite, personality yet many subtle nuances, delicious tannins, and real depth and class as it finishes. Why isn't Classico always this accomplished? One of Tesco's 'Finest' range.

Chianti Rufina 1999, Tesco 15.5 ~£5.00
Rufina is one of Chianti's great secrets. This example is smoother, more polished (yet not lacking in character or tannins) than regular Chiantis and it has a lovely plummy dryness as it quits the throat.

Inycon Merlot 1999 (Sicily) 15.5 ~£5.00
Juicy but not injudiciously so and the savoury tannins are excellent. Terrific food wine. Most stores.

Inycon Syrah 2000 (Sicily) 16 ~£5.00
Beautiful fruit, quite beautiful. The tannins' subsidiary role is entirely proper here for the fruit richly and ripely strides forward with great confidence.

La Gioiosa Merlot 2000 15.5 ~£5.00
Delicious leathery herbaceous fruit of class and richness with delightful dry, savoury, slightly herby depth. Very versatile with food. Can be chilled and drunk with fish.

Merlot del Piave NV, Tesco 11 ~£5.00

Monte d'Abro 13 £5.00
Montepulciano
Abruzzo NV
Brambly fruit offset by dry tannins. Terrific tension to the fruit as these elements fight it out with deft stroke play.

Pendulum Zinfandel 13.5 £5.00
1999

Pinot Noir del Veneto 13 £5.00
NV, Tesco

Sicilian Red NV, Tesco 14 £3.50

Terra Viva Organic 14 £5.00
Red 2000
Very dry with plum and raspberry richness. Decent savoury tannins.

Terre Dego 2000 13.5 £5.00
Delightful meaty richness, good tannins and a real textured finish accommodating blackberries and herb and a touch of the forest floor

Tre Uve Ultima 1998 16 £5–7
Superb depth of tannic richness geared to smoothly run alongside smooth plum/blackberry fruit. Selected stores.

Trulli Primitivo Salento 14.5 £5.00
1999
Sweet dry-to finish fruit excellent with curried chicken dishes.

Valpolicella Classico 13 £5.00
1999, Tesco

Villa Pigna Rosso 14 £5.00
Piceno 1998

WAITROSE RED

Amarone della 15 £20+
Valpolicella Classico
Riserva, Zenato 1993
On the edge of late middle age, but still full of figs and raisins and black cherries, and superb tannins. Mail Order only.

Amativo Negroamaro 13.5 £5–7
Primitivo 1999
Delicious vibrant cherries and plums with a hint of spice

Araldica Albera Barbera 14 £5.00
d'Asti Superior,
Piemonte 1999
Sweet cherries and a touch of herb.

Arcano Chianti Colli 13.5 £5–7
Senesi, Cecchi 1999
(organic)
A rare organic Chianti with vigorous baked plums and berries and active tannins. Good firm savoury finish.

Barolo Terre da Vino 13.5 £10–13
1997
Too pricey

Bonarda Sentito, 13.5 £5.00
Oltrepo Pavese 1999

Buonasera, Argiolas NV 13 £5.00
(Sardegna)
Toffeed richness and texture, excellent for robust foods

Capitel dei Nicola 13.5 £5–7
Valpolicella Classico
Superiore 1997
Figs, cherries, hint of liquorice,

rich plums and very dry tannins. Terrific stuff.

Castello di Fonterutoli Chianti Classico Riserva 1997 14 £20+
Far too much money for the tannins which, exciting though they are, can be experienced elsewhere for one third of the price.

Chianti 1999, Waitrose 13.5 ~£5.00

Chianti Classico Fattoria di Capraia, Rocca di Castagnoli 1998 13.5 £7–10
Very sweet.

Emporio Barrel Aged Syrah 1998 (Sicilia) 15 £5–7

Il Padrino Sangiovese 2000 (Sicilia) 15.5 ~£5.00
Elegant, ripe, textured and concentrated. Food will love it.

La Rena Salice Salento Leone de Castris 1998 16 £5–7
Gorgeous tannins coating juicy cherries and blackcurrants with a hint of liquorice.

Mezzomondo Negroamaro 1999 16 ~£5.00
Brilliant value food wine with rich, herby fruit and delicious spicy tannins. Has a first-class texture and concentration of flavours.

Natural State Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 1999 (organic) 16.5 ~£5.00
Utterly superb wine at a glorious price: cherries, plums, nuts all beautifully knitted together and texturally fine. Wonderful stuff.

Nero d'Avola Syrah, Firriato 2000 (Sicilia) 14.5 ~£5.00
Sweet, cherry-ripe, rich and will adhere firmly to Indian spices.

Pendulum Zinfandel 1999 15.5 ~£5.00

Planeta Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 17 £13–20
So much more impressive than more expensive Bordeaux. Lovely structure and balance of elements. Mail Order only.

Sangiovese Marche, Waitrose 13 ~£3.50

Tenute Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico Riserva 1997 16 £10–13
Expensive elegance it is impossible not to like or to rate lower. Tremendously smooth cassis and tannins.

Terra Viva Merlot del Veneto 2000 (organic) 14 ~£5.00
Juicy and ripe but firmly textured and food friendly.

Tignanello 1997 13 £20+
Hugely overrated and overpriced. Not worth more than twelve or fifteen pounds. The luxury is there and the tannins but why pay so much more for this label? Mail Order only.

Valpolicella 2000, Waitrose 13 ~£3.50

Thin, slightly earthy plums and cherries

Vigna Alta Merlot/ Cabernet Venosa, Basilicata 2000 14.5 ~£5.00
Superb tanginess here (the volcanic soil), leathery and blackcurranty and with lithe tannins of great alertness. A lovely texture to the wine gives it great class.

ASDA WHITE

Cantele Chardonnay Salento 2000 14 ~£5.00
Not your big New World in-yer-face Chard but one of subtle richness and acidic limpidity.

Lambrusco Bianco NV, Asda 13.5 ~£3.50

Lambrusco Rosato NV, Asda 13 ~£2.50

Solara Organic White Inzolia 2000 15 ~£3.50
Inzolia is the grape which makes Sicily's contribution to ichthyophilogastry: the love of eating fish. It is delightfully crisp and fresh and nutty.

BOOTHS WHITE

La Piazza Bianco 2000 (Sicily) 14 ~£3.50
Spicy food wine. Take it to the BYOB Thai restaurant.

Le Rime Pinot Grigio/ Chardonnay 2000 13 ~£5.00
Very rich and ripe.

Sentito Cortese DOC Oltrepo Pavese 1999 14 ~£5.00
Dry and rather prim.

Soave Classico Pra 2000 13.5 £5–7
Rather expensive

Viña Ruspo Rosado Capezzana 2000 14 £5–7
Intense damson dryness. Good fish wine.

BUDGENS WHITE

Il Padrino Grecanico/ Chardonnay, Sicily 2000 14.5 ~£5.00
Rich yet refreshing. Good texture.

Marc Xero Chardonnay NV 15 ~£5.00

Sartori Pinot Grigio delle Venezie 2000 14 ~£5.00
Charm to the dry, peachy fruit

Soave Dry NV, Budgens 12 ~£3.50
Dry it certainly is.

Trulli Chardonnay del Salento 2000 16 £5.00
Deliciously elegant and easy-going.

CO-OP WHITE

Chardonnay dell'Umbria 1999, Co-op 12 ~£5.00
Not at Convenience Stores

Chardonnay 15 £5.00
Vallagerina 2000, Co-op
Delicious warm nutty fruit.

Puglia Chardonnay 12 £5.00
Bombino 1999, Co-op

Villa Lanata Gavi 2000 16.5 £5.00
Superb individuality of effort offering dry peaches, walnuts, raspberries and fine acids. Superstores only.

Zagara Catarratto 16.5 £5.00
Chardonnay Firriato
2000 (Sicily)
Delicious rich, nutty fruit, finely textured and gently oily, with an elegant finish of great class.

KWIK SAVE WHITE

Sicilian White 2000, 14 £3.50
Somerfield
Good nutty edge to it.

Soave 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £5.00

M & S WHITE

Frascati Superiore 15.5 £5.00
Single Estate 2000
Beautifully nutty, crisp and whistle-clean. Lovely pureness to it

Orvieto Single Estate 16 £5.00
2000
Remarkably delicious fruit - classically walnutty and dry - which has great elegance and style as it lingers in the throat

Pinot Grigio/ 14.5 £5.00
Garganega 2000
Dry and crisp. The orgy suggested by the label is indeed in its early throes.

Soave Superiore Single 16 £5.00
Estate 2000
Lovely wine of consummate class, brilliant value, and double-layered elegance. Finishes with a bright fruity lilt.

Villa Masera Organic 15 £5.00
Wine 2000
Slight yoghurt edge to the finish. Crisp, clean attack opens up the performance.

MORRISONS WHITE

Casa de Monzi 13 £5.00
Chardonnay delle
Venezie 1999

Chardonnay di Puglia 13 £3.50
NV

Chianti Colli Fiorenti 13 £5.00
Uggiano 1998
Dry. Very dry.

Inycon Chardonnay 16 £5.00
2000 (Sicily)
Gorgeous! Brilliant layered fruit.

Uggiano Orvieto 12 £5.00
Classico 2000
Flat on the finish.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Arcadia Veronese 14.5 £5.00
Rosata 2000

The usual pert cherries but with the added drama of a plummy lilt on the finish. Selected stores.

Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily) 16 £5.00
Gorgeous! Brilliant layered fruit. Selected stores

Sentiero Bianco NV 13 £3.50
A bargain. Goes with smoked salmon and intelligent conversation.

Sentiero Bianco NV (3 litre box) 13.5 £3.50
Party wine box for parties where you leave early. Most stores

Trulli Chardonnay 1999 16 £5.00
Marvellously fluent fruit. Dry, crisp, complex, elegant. Selected stores

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico 2000 16 £5.00
Very impressive layered fruit, fine acidity, and a pineapple/pear/lemon finish.

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Bianco di Provincia di Verona NV, Sainsbury's 14 £3.50
Curious perfumed fruit of a fish-friendly disposition.

Ca'Donini Bianco di Custoza 2000 15.5 £5.00
Deliciously crisp and fresh. Really delivers elegance and bite. Most stores.

Classic Selection Pinot Grigio 2000, Sainsbury's 15 £5.7
Lovely dry, minerally apricots. Superbly well-textured and crisp-as-a-lettuce finish. Most stores

Figli di Augusto Pinot Bianco 2000 15.5 £5.7
Delightful minerals lurk amongst the crisp, clean fruit. 140 selected stores

Grecanico di Sicilia 2000, Sainsbury's 15.5 £3.00
Characterful, very dry, deliciously insistent fruit of class and charm.

Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily) 16 £5.00
Gorgeous! Brilliant layered fruit.

Orvieto Classico Amabile le Cimmelle 2000 15 £5.00
Medium-dry spicy pears and melon with a hint of herb. Good aperitif.

Pinot Grigio Veneto Borgo Paveri 2000 (organic) 14.5 £5.00
Has a fruity classiness and texture to it. Very quaffable stuff. 105 selected stores.

Sartori Organic Soave 2000 13.5 £5.00
Words fail me. Except: it smells and tastes of melons.

Sicilian White, Sainsbury's 13.5 £3.50

Soave, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 13 £3.50

Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Villa Bianchi Verdicchio Classico dei Castelli di Jesi 2000 16 £5.00
Concentrated richness and nuttiness of great class. Not at all stores

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Alfresco Vino da Tavola Bianco NV, Somerfield 14 £3.50
Party wine solely.

Alfresco Vino da Tavola Rosso NV, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Bright Brothers Greganico Inzolia 2000 14 £5.00
Has the usual Italian dry nuttiness

Chardonnay delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield 14.5 £3.00
Underripe melon. Good with fish cakes.

Chiaro di Luna Bianco di Custoza 2000 15.5 £5.00
Very delicious dry, underripe fruit with apples and lemon, very restrained and elegant.

D'Istinto Catarratto Chardonnay 1999 13 £5.00

Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily) 16 £5.00
High class stuff. Terrific style on the restrained finish.

La Luna Bianco di Custoza 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely gooseberry, lemon, cobnut fruit. Finishes crisply and firmly.

Marc Xero Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Lemony with a hint of fat melon.

Pinot Grigio delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield 14.5 £3.00
Classic Italian dry nuttiness Good fish wine.

Sicilian White 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50
Good nutty edge to it.

Soave 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £5.00

Trulli Chardonnay del Salento 2000 16 £5.00
Deliciously elegant and easy-going. Selected stores.

SPAR WHITE

Colli Albani NV, Spar 13 £5.00
Citrussy opening with a finish, chewy, of indefinable fruit.

Pasta White NV, Spar (1 litre) 13 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Riva Vino da Tavola NV, Spar 15 £3.50
Delicious hints of apricot, lemon and pineapple. Fantastic value for money.

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi 1999, Spar 14 ~£5.00
Nervous acids and dry melon undertone. Good fish wine.

TESCO WHITE

Antinori Orvieto Classico Secco 1999 13 ~£5.00

Asti NV, Tesco 13 ~£5.00

Cataratto Chardonnay Sicilia NV, Tesco 13.5 ~£5.00
Terrific blend of grapes which gives it individuality and poise Lovely fruit of class and style

'I Portali' Basilicata Greco 1999 16 ~£5.00
A splendidly vigorous wine of dry, mineral freshness and rich crispness. Selected stores.

Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily) 16 ~£5.00
Gorgeous! Brilliant layered fruit.

Italia Pinot Grigio 2000 12.5 ~£5.00
Goes fat and flabby after some initial tanginess.

La Gioiosa Pinot Grigio 2000 15 ~£5.00
Has that delicious peachy edge with a cobnut undertone.

Lamberti Pinot Grigio 2000 16 ~£5.00
Simply one of the most elegant and delicious Pinot Grigios I've tasted. Delicious balanced style, subtle apricot ringed with lemon edging. Most stores.

Terra Viva Organic Soave Superiore 2000 12 ~£5.00
Tangy and crisp.

Terra Viva Organic White 2000 13.5 ~£5.00
Nutty, gently rich, relaxed fruit which has poise, control and a lovely gooseberry finish. Has tanginess and purity of style.

Trulli Dry Muscat 2000 15 ~£5.00
Very dry grapeyness here, of some elegance, and it makes a pert aperitif as well as a good fish wine

Verdicchio Classico dei Castelli di Jesi 2000, Tesco 14.5 ~£5.00
Nutty, crisp, clean – very Italian underripeness and food friendliness

Viña Clara Frascati Classico Superiore 2000 14.5 ~£5.00
Classic lemon, nut and underripe melon fruit. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

WAITROSE WHITE

Buongiorno Argiolas Sardegna NV 16 ~£5.00
Brilliant texture and layered richness. Lovely class to it

Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily) 16 ~£5.00
Gorgeous! Brilliant layered fruit.

Lugana Villa Flora 2000 16 ~£5.00
Marvellous texture and compressed dry fruit.

Mezzo Mondo Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Sunny and engaging. Suits barbecued fish splendidly

Orvieto Classico Cardeto 2000 15.5 £5.00
Evolves slowly and deliciously on the taste buds to telling effect.

Pinot Grigio Alto Adige San Michele-Appiano 2000 15.5 £5–7
Apricots, slightly ripe, conceal, at the finish, the classiness of the opening and the middle palate polish.

Planeta Chardonnay 1999 18 £13–20
One of Italy's greatest Chardonnays: oily, rich, complex, lingering and very very stylish as it finishes. A truly wonderful Chardonnay of excitement and brilliance. Mail Order only.

Sauvignon Friuli, San Simone 2000 15.5 £5.00
Terrific tanginess and texture.

Soave Classico Vigneto Colombara 2000 16.5 £5.00
Defines how classy Soave can become. It mingles gooseberries and raspberries with bright acids and a textured richness of style and wit. Superb stuff.

Verdicchio dei Castelli Jesi, Moncaro 2000 14 £5.00
Nice dry peach and gooseberry.

Zagara Catarratto Chardonnay Firriato 2000 (Sicily) 16.5 £5.00
Delicious rich, nutty fruit, finely textured and gently oily, with an elegant finish of great class

LEBANON

Oddities of interest only.

BOOTHS RED

Hochar Red 1998 13% £5.7
Ripe yet dry, rich and sweet to finish

MEXICO

Has pockets of fascination.

SOMERFIELD RED

L A Cetto Petite Sirah 15 £5.00
1999
Juicy, spicy, berried – plus well ordered tannins.

TESCO RED

Mexican Cabernet 13 £5.00
Sauvignon 1999, Tesco

WAITROSE RED

L A Cetto Petite Sirah 16 £5.00
1998
Terrific texture and controlled ripeness. The tannins are so classy and calm. The whole effect is highly drinkable yet serious.

TESCO WHITE

Mexican Chardonnay 15 £5.00
1999, Tesco

MOROCCO

Great potential.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Baraka Private Reserve £14 ~~£15.00~~
Cabernet Merlot 1999
Sweet, overbaked, very ripe – it must have a Balti! It cries out: help me! Pair me with a Balti!
Selected stores

Moroccan Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Sainsbury's £13.5 ~~£15.00~~
Fine for Moroccan food and Moroccan mood: ripe, dry to finish, rampant, very eager
Selected stores.

Moroccan Syrah 2000, Sainsbury's 14.5 ~~£15.00~~
A brilliant, if very saucy, red for spicy food especially curries of full blooded hotheadedness.
Selected stores.

NEW ZEALAND

The world's most elegant Sauvignons, with improving reds.

BUDGENS RED

Helderberg Pinotage 2000 13 £5.00
Touch of tannin on the finish does save the fruit from soppiness but the initial juiciness of the fruit is the theme of the wine.

Montana Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000 15 £5–7
Ripe and very forward. Even the tannins are ripe and slightly half baked

CO-OP RED

Terrace View Cabernet Merlot 1999 13 £5.00
Jam with a grassy undertone.

M & S RED

Kaituna Hills Cabernet Merlot 1999 16 £5–7
Superbly well kitted out with warm, basil edged fruit, olives and fine tannins. A very safely textured, fine wine.

Kaituna Hills Reserve Cabernet Merlot 1999 15.5 £7–10
Has more woody richness than its two-quid cheaper sister but I don't see it's worth two quid more.

Kaituna Hills Reserve Pinot Noir 1999 10 £7–10
Pretty juicy and sweet for me.

MORRISONS RED

Montana Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000 14 £5–7
Ripe and very forward. Even the tannins are ripe and slightly half-baked

SAFEWAY RED

Delegat's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 16.5 £7–10
Superb class here: rich, complex, beautiful tannin structure, fine acidity and a superb balance of these elements. Very classy texture. 75 stores

Montana Reserve Pinot Noir 1999 13.5 £7–10
Sweet and jammy. Touch of

tannins, true. But it's a faint touch with faint Pinot Noir punch. Selected stores.

Villa Maria Cellar Selection Cabernet/Merlot 1998 13 £7–10
Dry, purposeful, balanced, well tailored tannins. 75 stores.

Villa Maria Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1998 13.5 £13–20
Far too expensive. A collector's folly. It is drinkable and well formed but Languedoc has it beaten hollow at a third of the price. Selected stores.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Montana East Coast Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 1999 13 £5–7
Unusually soft and ripe blend from Montana. Subtle tannins give it some backbone and character. A wholly quaffable wine. Selected stores.

TESCO RED

Babich Cabernet Franc/Pinotage 1999 13.5 £5–7
Juicy and odd. Most stores.

Babich Winemaker's Reserve Syrah 1998 13 £7–10

Montana Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000 14 £5–7
Ripe and very forward. Even the tannins are ripe and slightly half-baked.

Montana Pinotage 2000 14 £5–7
Nice tannins and tension. Most stores

Montana Reserve Merlot 1999 13 £7–10
A very well-wrought wine of some medium-weight class and richness. I'm not crazy about its price

WAITROSE RED

Church Road Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1998 13.5 £7–10
Always one of NZ's more enterprising and elegant Cab/Merl blends.

Montana Cabernet Merlot 1999 13 £5–7

Montana Reserve Pinot Noir 1999 13.5 £7–10
Sweet and jammy. Touch of tannins, true. But it's a faint touch with faint Pinot Noir punch.

Unison Selection, Hawkes Bay 1998 12 £13–20
Absurd price for such a construct.

Wither Hills Pinot Noir 1999 13 £10–13

ASDA WHITE

Babich Semillon Chardonnay 2000 13 £5–7
Terrific fish cake wine in its fluidity with spicy, fishy fare.

Corbans Sauvignon Blanc 1999 15.5 £5–7
Lovely hints of grass to the firm rich fruit. Excellent price for such lean Kiwi charms.

Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc 1999 14 £5–7
Tangy gooseberries.

Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc 1999 17 £5–7
Utterly utter – that is to say, haiku like in its concentrated richness of theme, pointedness of acidity and marvellous uncomplicated structure.

BOOTHS WHITE

Dashwood Sauvignon Blanc 2000 17 £7–10
Quite beautiful the Dashwood. More dash than wood, of course: balanced, subtly rich, finely acidic – and a great finish. Very classy.

Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16.5 £7–10
Richer style of Sauvignon with a sense of opulence to the well-textured fruit but what is so satisfying about it is its indescribable dryness yet fruitiness

BUDGENS WHITE

Corban's White Label Muller Thurgau/ Sauvignon Blanc 2000 12 –£5.00
Rather ho-hum on the finish.

Corbans Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £5–7
Grassy, rich, fish friendly.

Montana Unoaked Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
Lemon, melon and gooseberry – standard top-notch Kiwi recipe? Perhaps but this is a superior example and no wood gives it more purity than most.

CO-OP WHITE

Explorer's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Co-op 14 £5–7
A very dry, fresh wine for shellfish.

Matua Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2001 16.5 £5–7
Superb lemon and gooseberries with hints of orange peel and raspberry. Lovely fresh fruit wine. Superstores only.

Oyster Bay Marlborough Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5–7
Ripe, ready fruit of depth and substance.

Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5–7
Classic mineral-edged Sauvignon with subtle gooseberry and lemon undertones. Utterly marvellous.

Stoneleigh Chardonnay 1999 15.5 –£5.00
Rich and very ready with fine texture and well-knitted acids and

gooseberry/melon fruit.
Superstores only.

M & S WHITE

Kaituna Blue Sauvignon Semillon 2000 13 £5.00
Very odd stalky fruit. Repulsive blue bottle, too.

Kaituna Hills Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5–7
A mild salade de fruits with pineapple acids. Controlled exuberance from the New World.

Kaituna Hills Reserve Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £7–10
Has some interesting nuances as it opens but does flag a bit on the finish. An eight quid wine? Only in part.

Kaituna Hills Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 1999 14 £7–10

Kaituna Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14 £5–7
Old-fashioned grassy gutsiness.

Shepherds Ridge Chardonnay 1999 15.5 £7–10
Expensive, bit flash.

Shepherds Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13 £7–10
Doesn't quite finish the theme it opens up with.

MORRISONS WHITE

Moa Ridge Chardonnay 1999 13.5 £5–7
Very ripe and smokey and unsubtle.

Moa Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14 £5–7
Rich and very firmly textured.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Delegat's Reserve Chardonnay, Barrel Fermented 1999 16.5 £7–10
Superb texture, so gripping and subtly oleaginous. Has loads of fruit yet there's a toasty undertone, oil, and cream on the finish. Selected stores

Lawsons Dry Hills Chardonnay, Marlborough 1999 16.5 £7–10
Open it four to five hours beforehand and fully decant it. Delicious richness, subtle yet striking, and dry, classy acids. Selected stores.

Montana Unoaked Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
Lemon, melon and gooseberry – standard top-notch Kiwi recipe? Perhaps but this is a superior example and no wood gives it more purity than most.

Oyster Bay Marlborough Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5–7
Ripe, ready fruit of depth and substance.

Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5–7
Classic mineral-edged Sauvignon

with subtle gooseberry and lemon undertones. Utterly marvellous.

Villa Maria Reserve 16.5 £7–10
Wairau Valley
Sauvignon Blanc 2000
Delicious texture to it which adheres to the taste buds with a gently oily richness of gooseberry, raspberry, lime and pineapple (all very subtle). Very classy stuff. Selected stores.

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Nobilo Sauvignon 14 £5–7
Blanc 2000
Grassy richness with touches of gooseberry and lemon. Dry finish of some length. Curiously old-fashioned NZ style. Most stores

Shingle Peak Pinot 15.5 £5–7
Gris, Marlborough 2000
A vivid example of this grape: apricots and strawberries, a hint of Ogen melon, a tangy undertone of acid minerality. This is a richly entertaining wine of some depth

The Sanctuary 17 £5–7
Sauvignon Blanc 2000
Superb layers of minerals, melon, lemon, raspberry, cobnuts and apples. Beautifully thought provoking, keenly priced and deliciously keenly-fruited. Has a high stepping crisp finish. Not at all stores.

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Montana Sauvignon 15.5 £5–7
Blanc 1999

Nobilo White Cloud 13 £5.00
2000
Bit ho-hum on the finish.

Villa Maria 16.5 £5–7
Chardonnay 1999
Superbly well textured and classy where the full virtues of emphatic rich fruit and understated acidity triumphantly emerge into a deliciously drinkable whole. Selected stores.

SPAR WHITE

Saint Clair 13.5 £5–7
Marlborough
Sauvignon 1996
Grassy lemons, rather expensive.

TESCO WHITE

Azure Bay 13.5 £5.00
Chardonnay/Semillon
2000
Slightly bruised fruit undertone.

Jackson Estate 16.5 £7–10
Sauvignon Blanc 2000
Richer style of Sauvignon with a sense of opulence to the well textured fruit but what is so satisfying about it is its indescribable dryness yet fruitiness

Lawsons Dry Hills 17 £7–10
Sauvignon Blanc 2000

Extremely classic Sauvignon of high class, subtle richness and delicacy. A wine of finesse yet fulsomeness, depth yet delicacy, richness yet restraint. Great value, too, for it is superior to more expensive Kiwis.

Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Tesco 16 £5-7
Fat on the one edge, grassy on the other, this presents problems for the classicist but for those who regard wine as wine and not cultural icons, this is irrelevant. Here is a patently individual, thought-provoking wine. Part of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores.

Montana Reserve Chardonnay 1999 17 £7-10
Intensely classy and enormously creamy and rich without being too ripe and obvious. A provocative blend of smokey melon and fine acids. Has elegance, elongation and ease of effort.

Montana Reserve Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2000 16.5 £7-10
Quite gorgeous richness yet subtlety here: herbaceousness with fine, cutting acidity and a great texture. A lovely wine of some class.

Montana Unoaked Chardonnay 2000 16 £5-7
Lemon, melon and gooseberry – standard top-notch Kiwi recipe? Perhaps but this is a superior example and no wood gives it more purity than most. Most stores.

New Zealand Dry White, Tesco 13.5 £3-5.00

Nobilo White Cloud 1999 15 £5.00
An excellent wine to have handy when eating takeaway Chinese duck with plum sauce. Most stores.

Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 £5-7
Needs six months to pile on more points but it has classic gooseberry fruit with a touch of celery.

WAITROSE WHITE

Azure Bay Chardonnay/Semillon 2000 13.5 £5.00
Slightly bruised fruit undertone.

Craggy Range Old Renwick Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14.5 £7-10
Has some mild tannins to it, uncommon in a white wine.

Craggy Range Winery Chardonnay, Hawkes Bay 1999 16 £10-13
Splendid treat of a wine, nutty, caramely, rich and lingering Individual and very stylish.

Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16.5 £7-10

Richer style of Sauvignon with a sense of opulence to the well-textured fruit but what is so satisfying about it is its indescribable dryness yet fruitiness

Montana Reserve Barrique Fermented Chardonnay 1999 16.5 £7–10
Very accomplished wine of aplomb and weight. Lovely wood integration. Fine fruit and gentle vegetality.

Montana Riesling 2000 14 £5.00
Cellar it for five years and get 16.5 points

Oyster Bay Marlborough Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5–7
Ripe, ready fruit of depth and substance

Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14 £5–7
Classic mineral-edged Sauvignon with subtle gooseberry and lemon undertones. Utterly marvellous

Stoneleigh Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13 £5–7
Rich and ready for moules marnières

Tiki Ridge Dry White 13 £3.00
[illegible]

Villa Maria Private Bin Riesling 2000 16 £5–7
Delicious certainty of fruit minerally, rich, balanced, eminently cellar-worthy.

Wither Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 £7–10
Tangy ripeness and richness. Will develop well over the next two years if not longer

PORTUGAL

Failed to deliver after a promising new beginning

BOOTHS RED

Alianca Foral Douro Reserva 1997 13.5 £5.00

Alta Mesa Red 1999 12 £3.50
Very sweet and thin.

Bela Fonte Baga, Beiras 1999 14 £5.00
Rich and curry friendly.

Dão Dom Ferraz 1999 15 £5.00
Delightful tannins sprinkled over ripe, chocolate-sweet fruit. The mouth puckers in pleasure.

Portada Red Estremadura 1999 13.5 £5.00
A juicy curry red.

Quinta da Villa Freire Douro 1996 15 £5–7

Quinta de la Rosa 1998 13.5 £5–7
Very elegant richness and cherry-ripe fruit. Great tannins.

BUDGENS RED

Dão Dom Ferraz 1999 15 £5.00
Delightful tannins sprinkled over ripe, chocolate-sweet fruit. The mouth puckers in pleasure.

Segada Portuguese Red 2000 13 £5.00
Very sweet.

CO-OP RED

Big Baga 1999, Co-op 13.5 £5.00

Portada Tinto 2000 13 £5.00
Very jammy ripeness - lush (the wine, not me). Superstores only.

Star Mountain Oak Aged 1997 13.5 £5.00
Juice with raw tannins. Not at Convenience Stores.

Star Mountain Touriga Nacional 1997 14 £5.00

Terra Boa Portuguese Red 2000 13 £5.00
Bit thin – even with the tannins. Not at Convenience Stores.

MORRISONS RED

Dão Dom Ferraz 1999 15 £5.00
Delightful tannins sprinkled over

ripe, chocolate-sweet fruit. The mouth puckers in pleasure.

Tamara Red Vinho Regional Ribatejo 1999 13 £3.50

SAFEWAY RED

Bela Fonte Jaen 1999 13 £5.00
Hint of sweet chocolate struggling under the tannins. Selected stores.

Bright Brothers Trincadeira Preta 1997 14 £3.00

Falcoaria, Almeira 1997 14.5 £5–7

Miradouro, Terras do Sado 1999 12 £3.50

Palmela 1998 14.5 £5.00

Tamara Ribetajo 1999 13 £5.00

SAINSBURY'S RED

Quinta de Bons-Ventos 1999 14 £5.00

Quinta do Crasto 1999 13.5 £5–7
Rich, berried, deep, good meaty edge to the tannins, classy structure, some heft to the texture, and a finish of mild aplomb. Most stores

Segada Trincadeira Preta-Castelao 2000 12 £5.00
So ripe! It's like fruit salad with gravy

SOMERFIELD RED

Bright Brothers Atlantic Vines Baga 1999 14 £5.00
Bright as its name. Offers dry cherries and blackberries.

Pedras do Monte 1999 14 £5.00
Gorgeous savoury tannins allied to sweet cherries and dry plums and blackcurrants. Selected stores

Portada Red Estremadura 1999 13.5 £5.00
A juicy curry red

Portuguese Red 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £3.50
Dry and ripe.

TESCO RED

Dão, Tesco 1999 14.5 £5.00
Big, rich fruit, developed tannins, and a precise finish.

Portuguese Red NV, Tesco 14.5 £3.50

WAITROSE RED

Altano 1999 14 £5–7
Touch sweet but has some tannic decency.

Terra de Lobos, Quinta do Casal Branco 2000 14 £5.00
Very rich and baked and ripe. Suits very spicy food.

Trincadeira Joao Portugal Ramos 1999 14 £7–10
Nice civilised tippling. Not to civil

is the price tag.

Vila Santa Alentejano 1999 15 £7–10
Superior aroma and texture, touch of spice, good firm texture.

Vinho do Monte, Alentejo 1999 15 £5.00
Good level of plummy fruit allied to soft tannins. Respectable performance.

ASDA WHITE

Vale de Rosas Fernão Pires 1999 13 £5.00
A fish wine pre-eminently – sardines spring to mind. It has some poise and meaty richness.

Vinho Verde 1999, Asda 10 £3.50

CO-OP WHITE

Fiuza Chardonnay 1999 16 £5.00
Rather dainty at first and then it really surges into fruity action. Captivating final richness here.

Portuguese Chardonnay 1999, Co-op 13.5 £5–7
Ripe and gently toffeed texture. Great wine for smoked fish and complex shellfish plates. Superstores only.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Globus Ribetajo 1999 11 £5.00

Tamara Ribetajo White 1999 14.5 £3.50

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Bright Brothers Fernão Pires Chardonnay 1998 13.5 £5.00
Interesting blend of strikingly individual components. Has refreshing elements and food friendly ones.

TESCO WHITE

Dry Vinho Verde, Tesco 13.5 £5.00

WAITROSE WHITE

Terras do Rio Quinta de Abrigada 1998 13 £3.50

ROMANIA

Not quite as exciting as it seemed a decade ago.

CO-OP RED

Prahova Valley Pinot Noir 1999 12.5% £3.50
Struggling . . . Not at Convenience Stores.

Prahova Valley Special Reserve Merlot 1999 15% £5.00
Tangy tannins and tight, well composed plums and berries. Superstores only.

Romanian Prairie Merlot 1999, Co-op 14.5% £3.50

MORRISONS RED

Prahova Valley Reserve Merlot 1999 13.5% £5.00
Dry, has tannins, will go with food. Thus, no florid metaphors come to mind.

Proles Pontica Merlot 1995 13% £5.00
Very dry and mature, hints of meat and gravy. Bit too old for me, Stuart

Romanian Classic Pinot Noir 1998 11% £3.50

Special Reserve Pinot Noir 1998 10% £3.00

Special Reserve Sangiovese 1998 10% £5.00

SAFEWAY RED

Idle Rock Merlot 1998 12% £5.00

SAINSBURY'S RED

Prahova Valley Reserve Pinot Noir 1999 13% £5.00
Fairly innocuous, unfairly priced. Selected stores

Romanian Pinot Noir NV, Sainsbury's 13.5% £3.50
A juicy curry wine. Some cherried Pinot character but thinner than previous vintages.

SOMERFIELD RED

Eagle Valley Romanian Merlot 1999 15% £5.00
Lovely dry blackberries and plums. Good soft tannins give it backbone.

TESCO RED

Reka Valley Romanian Pinot Noir, Tesco 15.5 ~~£3.50~~

WAITROSE RED

Willow Ridge Pinot Noir/Merlot 1999 15.5 ~~£5.00~~

Interesting ripe/leathery chewy edge the Merlot gives the Pinot. Highly civilised quaffing here.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Château Cotnari, Blanc de Cotnari 1998 10 ~~£5.00~~

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Romanian Merlot Rosé NV, Sainsbury's 14 ~~£3.50~~

TESCO WHITE

Shaw & Smith Unoaked Chardonnay 1999 16 ~~£7–10~~

Delicious class and richness here with an elongated elegance of fruit which is subtle and fine. Limited distribution.

WAITROSE WHITE

Willow Ridge Sauvignon Blanc/ Feteasca 2000 15 ~~£3.50~~

Interesting chewiness to the wine. Brilliant for Thai food.

RUSSIA

I'm sorry? Are you serious?

SAFEWAY RED

Caucasus Valley, Matrassa, Georgia 1998 13% £5.00

Odessos Steppe Cabernet Sauvignon, Ukraine 1998 13% £5.00

Tamada Saperavi, Georgia 1998 13.5% £5.00
Lush as a Beaujolais but has much more character and bite from the tannins – which are great.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Cape sizzles with vibrant reds and vivacious whites.

ASDA RED

Beyerskloof Pinotage, Stellenbosch 2000 15.5 £5.00
Rubbery, spicy fruit, deep tannins, coffee-edged rich fruit and a roaring finish.

Carnby Liggle 2000 12 £5.00
Needs a good kick up the backside via a good Balti

Dumisani Ruby Cabernet/Merlot 1999 15.5 £5.00

Graham Beck Coastal Shiraz 1999 16.5 £5–7
Deeply integrated elements provide superbly well textured berries, touch of tobacco to dry cassis fruit and a plump, textured richness and great class. A really exceptional Shiraz. Selected stores.

Kumala Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000 16 £5.00
Huge juice and tannins. Lovely meaty edge.

Landskroon Merlot Reserve 1999 16 £5–7
Gigantic hedgerow fruitiness. The wine simply swims with flavours. Utterly seductive from nose to throat.

Linton Park Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 13.5 £10–13
A huge gravy of a wine with such savoury richness it clogs the throat. A most unusual and cloying Cabernet, absurdly overpriced, but of interest to plutocrats eating game dishes Only at the Bristol Supercentre.

Middelvlei Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15.5 £5–7
Very striking tannins here and very couth blackcurrants. Limited distribution.

Neil Ellis Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 16.5 £7–10
Delightful aroma of spicy blackcurrants, elegant layered fruit, delicious integrated acids and a lovely lilting finish. Terrific Cabernet. Limited distribution.

Pinotage Reserve 1999, Asda 14 £5.00

Porcupine Ridge Syrah 1999 16 £5–7
There used to be two styles of Syrah: the Rhône's (dry) and the

Aussie's (very rich). Now comes the Cape's Crusader. And it makes a very strong, rich case for itself.

Railroad Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999 15 £5.00
Positive ripe glugging. Good tannins, firmly and confidently structured. Selected stores.

Savanha Merlot 1999 14 £5–7
Odd cosmetic richness and spiciness

South African Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Asda 14 £5.00

South African Pinotage 1999, Asda 13.5 £5.00

Spier Unexpected Pleasures Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 16 £5.00
At first I was flummoxed. Was it too dry? Too . . . well, too many things. Perhaps, infuriatingly, it is accurately labelled. The pleasures of it are unexpected . . . the lingering tannins, the bite of the blackcurrants. Great with food

Van Loveren Cabernet Shiraz 1999 13 £3.00

BOOTHS RED

Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet Rhône fruit with elegant tannins. Greatly quaffable and unpretentious (the name apart).

Helderberg Shiraz 1999 15 £5.00

Spice Route Andrew's Hope Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1999 16.5 £5–7
Vibrates with rich cherries, plums, blackberries and fine tannins.

Welmoed Merlot 1999 16 £5–7
Hints of heather, spice and fresh blackberries – terrific pace to the fruit helped by great tannins.

BUDGENS RED

Kumala Cinsault Pinotage 2000 13.5 £3.00
Curry red.

Long Mountain Merlot Shiraz 2000 13.5 £5–7
Touch expensive for the sweetness of the style.

CO-OP RED

Cape American Oak Pinotage 1999, Co-op 14 £5.00

Cape Indaba Pinotage 1998 13 £5.00

Cape Red NV, Co-op 11 £3.50
Well, it's ripe and ready, but not for my glass it's not . . .

Cape Ruby Cabernet, Oak Aged 2000, Co-op 13 £5.00
Curry-friendly jamminess.

Elephant Trail Cinsault/Merlot 2000, Co-op 13 £5.00

Fire Engine Red 1999 15.5 £5.00
Indeed, it tastes burnt as it quits

the throat – though the fire is, as promised by the label, out. The fruit is well-built and handsome. Superstores only.

Goiya Giaan 2000 13 £5.00
Rubbery and dry. Remarkable feat to achieve. Not at Convenience Stores.

Kumala Ruby Cabernet Merlot 2000 15 £5.00
Baked, almost grilled, rich fruit of depth and clarity.

Natural State Cape Soleil Organic Shiraz 1999 15 £5–7

Oak Village Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13 £5.00
Cabernet as fruit juice. Not at Convenience Stores.

Pinnacle Merlot 1998 16 £5–7
Very thrusting style, taking no prisoners, and it has something to say for itself. 'I am utterly hedonistic and delicious.' Amen to that. Superstores only.

Railroad Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999 15 £5.00
Positive ripe glugging. Good tannins, firmly and confidently structured. Selected stores.

Spice Route Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1998 16.5 £7–10
Roasted nuts, ripe raspberries, blackcurrants, plums, spices, herbs, integrated soft tannins and an overall demeanour of determinacy and deliciousness. Superstores only.

Three Worlds Pinotage Shiraz Zinfandel 1999, Co-op 13.5 £5–7

Winds of Change Pinotage/Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £5.00
Juicy curry wine.

M & S RED

Cape Country Cinsault/Ruby Cabernet 2000 13 £5.00
Great with a takeaway chicken tandoori.

Monate Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13 £7–10
Sweet and sour fruit. Not a £10 wine.

Monate Shiraz 2000 15.5 £7–10
Brilliant spicy richness, tobacco-edged blackberries and baked plums and a surprising turn of speed to the tannins. Terrific texture to it, too.

Rock Ridge Pinotage 2000 14 £5.00
Very fit and sweetly dispositioned for spicy food. Burnt rubber undertone to some raunchy fruit.

Warwick Estate Trilogy 1997 12 £7–10
Not the wine it was. I remember it had real panache and luminosity. Now it seems even a touch soppy. What's going on here?

MORRISONS RED

Cathedral Cellars Merlot 1996 13 £7–10

Fairview Malbec 2000 16.5 £5–7
Elegance, power with finesse, complexity plus luxury extras like aroma, chutzpah and great tannins

Namaqua Classic Red NV (3 litre box) 11.5 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Old Cellar Cabernet Sauvignon 1995 13 £5.00
Ripe finish with an echo of linoleum.

Spice Route Andrew's Hope 1998 16.5 £5–7
Thundering riches abound here: blackcurrants, tar, violets, rosewater, leather and a subtle spicy tang. Great stuff.

SAFEWAY RED

Apostle's Falls Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 16.5 £5–7
What wouldn't they give in Bordeaux for such ripeness, such texture, such savoury richness with austerity. A beautiful performer, this specimen, on every front.

Arniston Bay Ruby Cabernet/Merlot 1999 14 £5.00

Bellingham Cabernet Franc 1998 13 £10–13
Selected stores

Cape Soleil Organic Pinotage 1998 9 £5.00
Thin and insubstantial. Why sell organic wine as puny as this just to see the word organic on shelf?

Goiya Glaan 1999 16 £5.00
Very ripe and rich, firmly textured, delicious plums, blackcurrants and spice. Really gushes with flavour whilst retaining a serious depth. Selected stores.

Kanonkop 'Kadette' Estate Wine 1998 15.5 £5–7

Kleinbosch Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £5–7

Landskroon Shiraz, Paarl 1998 15 £5–7
Juicy, ripe, raunchy and ready. Hint of cigar to the hedgerow fruit.

Simsberg Pinot Noir, Paarl 1998 13.5 £5–7

South African Pinotage 2000, Safeway 16 £5.00
Quirky, smokey, dry, jammy, deep, spicy and very dry. Tarry texture gives it huge food compatibility.

Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £5.00

Stellenbosch Merlot 1999 15.5 £5.00

Young Vatted Pinotage, Paarl 1999, Safeway 15 £5.00

SAINSBURY'S RED

Bellingham Pinotage 1999 13 ~£5.00
Bit juicy for me.

Clos Malverne Cabernet Sauvignon Pinotage 1999 13 £5–7
Very sweet and a touch simpering. Not at all stores.

Flagship Vergelegen Bordeaux Blend 1998 14 £13–20
Soft, ripe, highly drinkable. Eighteen quid is overloading it, though. Limited distribution.

Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000 14 ~£5.00
Sweet Rhône fruit with elegant tannins. Greatly quaffable and unpretentious (the name apart).

Graham Beck Merlot 1999 13 £5–7
Why are many of this retailer's SA reds so sweet? They used to imprison reds in this country once. Maybe they should consider bringing it back – for wines like these. Selected stores.

Kumala Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000 15 ~£5.00
Huge juice and tannins. Lovely meaty edge.

Kumala Cabernet Shiraz NV (3 litre box) 15.5 ~£5.00
Boisterous, bouncy, full of vivaciously layered fruit and fun-filled riches. A lovely devil-may-care wine of entertaining depth, food friendly fullness, and generous to-finish heartiness. (Heartiness often disguises shallowness but not here.) Selected stores. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Railroad Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000 13 ~£5.00
Juicy, yet dry to finish. Selected stores.

South African Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Sainsbury's 15.5 ~£5.00

South African Pinotage NV, Sainsbury's 12 ~£5.00
New label, sour. New blend, sweet.

South African Red NV, Sainsbury's 15 ~£3.50

South African Reserve Selection Pinotage 2000, Sainsbury's 16 £5–7
Unusually dry and serious-sided Pinotage with more Pinot character than age. Yes it's young and vibrant but the plums and meaty blackberries are handsomely rigged. Most stores.

Spice Route Andrew's Hope Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1999 16.5 £5–7
Vibrates with rich cherries, plums, blackberries and fine tannins. Most stores.

Spice Route Pinotage 1999 16 £7–10
One of the Cape's more effective Pinotages where tobacco, a hint of coffee and roasted berries

harmonise sweetly yet dryly. Selected stores.

SSW Ruby Cabernet NV (1 litre) 14 £5.00
A brilliant curry wine. Sweet but firm to finish. Most stores. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Stowells of Chelsea Cinsault Pinotage Sainsbury (3 litre box) 13.5 £5.00
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Vergelegen Merlot 1998 13 £10–13
We can exempt this Merlot from the sweet censure referred to elsewhere but this wine displays other criminal tendencies beginning with the felonious price tag. Limited distribution.

SOMERFIELD RED

Andrews Hope Spice Route Cabernet Merlot 2000 15.5 £5–7
Terrific value for the rich, tangy fruit on offer.

Bellingham Pinotage 1999 13 £5–7
Bit juicy for me. Selected stores.

Cape Soleil Organic Pinotage 2000 12.5 £5.00
Bitter nuts as an undertone to dry plums.

Kumala Cinsault Pinotage 2000 13.5 £5.00
Curry red.

Kumala Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15 £7–10
Chocolate and cocoa, with sweet plums. Selected stores.

South Africa Dry Red 2000, Somerfield 12.5 £5.00
Rather dry and a touch incomplete on the finish.

South African Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Brilliant tobacco and dry cassis fruit with superb tannins

South African Cinsault Ruby Cabernet 2000, Somerfield 12 £5.00
Sweet and simple.

South African Pinotage 2000, Somerfield 13 £5–7
Try it with bacon and eggs. And please e-mail me at *superplonk.com* and let me kow how you and the wine got on.

Spice Route Pinotage 2000 16.5 £7–10
Exuberant, spicy, rich, deep, berried, chocolatey, tannic – it has it all. Selected stores

Spice Route Shiraz 2000 16.5 £7–10
Oz!! Look to your fruity laurels! There are tannins here to die for. Selected stores

SPAR RED

Chiwara Cinsaut/Ruby Cabernet 1999 14.5 £5.00

A good vibrant richness of attack and fine tannins. Has some character and food compatibility (mild curries etc).

Chiwara Pinotage 2000, Spar 12 £5.00
Sweet and sour fruit with a wry burnt edge to the finish.

TESCO RED

African Legend Pinotage 1999 13 £5.00
Curry friendly. Not at all stores.

Apostles Falls Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15 £5–7
Blackcurrants, spice, and very energetic tannins give this wine personality and punch

Apostles Falls Merlot 1999 15.5 £5–7
Ripe, soft and very immediate (a second or two's breathing is more than enough). This wine has spice, substance and great depth.

Beyers Truter Pinotage NV, Tesco 16 £5.00
Brilliant burnt rubber soup – I mean wine – and its tannins excite the palate also. Great with all sorts of meat and chicken dishes and supremely good with Indian food. Part of Tesco's 'Finest' range. Most stores.

Cape Cinsault NV, Tesco 13.5 £5.00
Ripe and curry friendly.

Cape Cinsault/ Pinotage NV, Tesco 15 £5.00
Very dry and tobacco-edged, and has deep tannins – excellent casserole-friendly fruit.

Fairview Shiraz 1999 16.5 £5–7
One of the meatiest and most munch-worthy Shirazes around for the money: vibrant tannins, delicious layered fruit with hints of at least fourteen different spices, and a classy finish.

Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet Rhône fruit with elegant tannins. Greatly quaffable and unpretentious (the name apart).

Goiya Glaan 2000 15 £5.00
Interesting ripe tannins and hugely plummy richness. A bold wine of depth and flavour.

Kumala Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000 15 £5.00
Huge juice and tannins. Lovely meaty edge.

Kumala Cinsault/ Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet edge – needs curry.

Kumala Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15 £7–10
Big and rich and engagingly fruity.

Landskroon Premier Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 14 £5–7

Oak Village Vintage Reserve 2000 15 £5.00
Good firm tannins which are well hitched to blackberry richness and dryness. Has a slightly exotic (herbs?) tang on the finish.

Rylands Grove Cabernet/Merlot 2000 16.5 £5.00
Real crunchiness to the rich tannins, tobacco, coffee and cassis to the fruit, and an elongated, dry finish of calm, controlled fruitiness. A real lip-smacking bargain. At most stores

Rylands Grove Cinsaut/Tinta Barocca 2000 13 £5.00
Bit too jammy for me. At most stores.

South African Red NV, Tesco 11 £3.50
Pretty basic. Very dry.

South African Reserve Cabernet NV, Tesco 12 £5.00

Winds of Change Cabernet Sauvignon/ Pinotage 2000 14.5 £5.00
Spicy, food friendly, dry. Good rich finish.

WAITROSE RED

Andrew's Hope Spice Route Pinotage 2000 15.5 £5–7
Juicy yet dry, tannic yet fruity, elegant yet ripe.

Clos Malverne Basket Pressed Pinotage, Stellenbosch 1999 16 £5–7
Rich, aromatic, deep, full and gently spicy. Has oodles of berries and ripe nutty tannins.

Culemborg Cape Red 12 £5.00
[illegible]
Very sweet and simpering.

Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000 14 £5.00
Sweet Rhône fruit with elegant tannins. Greatly quaffable and unpretentious (the name apart).

Graham Beck The Ridge Shiraz 1999 15 £7–10
Good tannins here and a rich throughput of ripe fruit. Has an incipient raunchiness.

Natural State Shiraz 1999 (organic) 14.5 £5–7
Very chewy tannins, slightly creamy, roasted finish.

Spice Route Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1998 16.5 £7–10
Roasted nuts, ripe raspberries, blackcurrants, plums, spices, herbs, integrated soft tannins and an overall demeanour of determinacy and deliciousness.

Spice Route Flagship Merlot 1998 17 £13–20
A big, rich special occasion Merlot of massive depth, lingering tannins and huge food compatibility. Not at all stores.

Villiera Merlot, Paarl 1998 14.5 £7–10

Sweet, a touch, and saved by some earthy tannins.

ASDA WHITE

Big South African Chardonnay 2000 (1.5 litres) 14.5 £3.50
Great lip-smacking fun. Tangy and not OTT. Selected stores. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Interlude Blanc, Verdun Estate 1999 13 £5–7
Curious blend of Sauvignon, Gewürztraminer and Chenin which comes across ill-knit. Only at the Bristol Supercentre.

Kumala Chenin Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00
Biting, clean, nicely fruity.

Porcupine Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5.00
Disarmingly prickly and classically styled in everything except the lingering hint of creamy pineapple and peach.

Speir Chenin Blanc 2000 13 £5.00
Touched by a charming ripeness of apricot, melon and lemon. Not crisp so much as creamy.

Speir Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15.5 £5.00
Delicious nut and ripe gooseberry fruit

Van Loveren Blanc de Noirs 2000 14 £5.00

BOOTHS WHITE

Altus Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Very dry.

Jordan Chardonnay 1999 16 £7.10
Delicious creamy fruit with hints of raspberry and ripe melon. Good finish, if somewhat wild and whacky

Landema Falls Colombard Chardonnay NV 15 £3.50

Welmoed Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Very ripe and rich.

BUDGENS WHITE

Cape White NV, Budgens 11 £3.50

Clear Mountain Chenin Blanc NV 13.5 £5.00

Kumala Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Rich apricots, gooseberries and lemons. Good for spicy oriental food.

Long Mountain Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13 £5.00
Grassy undertone to rich melon overtone.

Stowells of Chelsea Chenin Blanc NV 13 £5.00

CO-OP WHITE

Cape Chenin Blanc, Oak Aged 2000, Co-op 13.5 £5.00
Sticky lime fruit with hints of lychee.

Cape Soleil Organic Chardonnay 1999, Co-op 13 £5.00
Has a fat, creamy edge which mars the natural freshness of the squeezed grapes

Cape White NV, Co-op 13 £3.50
Cheap and cheerful.

Elephant River Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000, Co-op 14 £3.50

First Release Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5.00

Goiya Kgeisje Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13 £5.00

Not Too Dry Chardonnay 2001 12 £5.00
Very ripe and Chinese food friendly. Superstores only.

Oak Village Sauvignon Blanc 1999 13 £5.00

Pendulum Pink 2001 12 £5.00
Pretty horrible bottle. Not at Convenience Stores.

Robert's Rock Chardonnay Semillon 2000 13.5 £5.00
Pacy, zippy and keen. Doesn't quite put the ball in the net, though.

Spice Route Chenin Blanc 1998 16 £5-7
Fat but far from out of condition or flabby. Has a lush peachy ripeness relieved by a lovely texture and nutty-edged acidity. Not at all stores

Stowells South African Chenin Blanc NV 13 £5.00

M & S WHITE

Cape Country Chenin Blanc 2001 14.5 £5.00
An excellent party wine which will raise eyebrows as it raises your neighbourhood esteem.

'Life from Stone' Sauvignon Blanc, Springfield Estate 2000 13.5 £5-7
Dry, touch lacking. Austere on the finish. Seems, somehow, incomplete, dissatisfied with itself.

Rockridge Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Pleasant, if unexciting, fruit which starts underripely but finishes with more upbeat richness.

MORRISONS WHITE

Danie de Wet Chardonnay Sur Lie 2000 16 £5.00
Amazing price for such delicacy

and precision. The best white wine for the money in the store.

Fair Cape Chenin Blanc 2000 14.5 £3.50
Cheap and very cheerful. Dry fruit with touches of lemon and pineapple

Fairview Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7
This is a different sort of Chardonnay with melon, gooseberry and apricot and it expresses its difference via a subtle richness of some sort of herb and nut and in its lovely texture.

Namaqua Classic Dry White NV (3 litre box) 15 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Spice Route Abbotsdale Colombard/Chenin Blanc 1998 16 £5.00
Very subtle but vibrant and sensual in its delicious fruity finish.

Van Loveren Blanc de Noirs 2000 14 £5.00

Van Loveren Semillon 1999 14 £5.00

SAFEWAY WHITE

Douglas Green Sauvignon 2000 15.5 £5.00
Rich, ready, dry to finish. A very crisp overtone with an undertone of underripe gooseberry. Selected stores

Echo Bay Colombar 1999 13 £5.00
Bit sour on the finish.

Fairview Semillon 1999 16 £5–7
Exciting biting here: richness, texture, tanginess and lovely subtle fruit. Most stores.

Kumala Colombard/Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Rich apricots, gooseberries and lemons. Good for spicy oriental food.

Lyngrove Chenin Blanc/Colombard 2000 13 £5.00

Neil Ellis Groenekloof Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16.5 £7–10
Very elegant dry gooseberry, touches of mineral hardness, hint of herbaceousness. Very classy.

Sea of Serenity Dry Muscat 2000 14 £3.50

Vale of Peace Colombard 2000 14 £5.00

Versus 2000 (1 litre) 16 £5.00
Delicious crisp fruit. A most stylishly demure wine. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Bellingham Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5–7
Rich creamy melon with some good lemon backup.

Kumala Chardonnay NV (3 litre box) 16.5 £5.00
Throbs with purpose and plump melonosity, a touch of pear and pineapple, and a subtle undertone of baked fruit. If this sounds a bit of a mouthful, I apologise. The wine, is, withal, rather witty in a box. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent

Pendulum Chardonnay (3 litre box) 15 £5.00
Like getting your teeth stuck into an overripe Canteloupe melon with lemon juice and alcohol added. For plates brimful of spicy Thai takeaway this is the wine to go with.

Pendulum Rosé (3 litre box) 14 £5.00
Subdued walnut and cherry fruit, very dry. Good barbecue food wine

Reserve Selection South African Sauvignon Blanc 2001, Sainsbury's 15.5 £5.7.
Very dry gooseberries with a faint mineral tang as it finishes. Has some elegance to its structure. Most stores.

Rhona Muscadel 1996 16 £5–7.
Wonderful textured syrupy richness of concentrated sweetness and ripeness. Pour it over ice-cream or drink it with raspberries and cream. 70 stores.

South African Chardonnay 2001, Sainsbury's 15.5 £5.00
Another clean Sainsbury Chardonnay – as if it were becoming a house style. Perish the thought. But celebrate, if you prefer, this consistency of approach with this delicious wine.

South African Chenin Blanc NV, Sainsbury's 14 £3.50

South African Chenin Blanc NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 14.5 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

South African Medium White NV, Sainsbury's 13 £3.50

SSW Chardonnay Chenin Blanc 1999 (1 litre) 12 £5.00
Unsubtle, overripe, rather crude and clumsy on the palate. Most stores. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Vergelegen Chardonnay 2000 14 £5–7
Very woody and ripe. Needs food. 140 selected stores.

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Arniston Bay South African Chenin Chardonnay 2001 14.5 £5.00
Crisp, chewy edge of ripe melon and gooseberry.

Bellingham Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5–7
Rich creamy melon with some good lemon backup. Selected stores.

Bellingham Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16.5 £5.00
A high class, high-wire act where fine acids tiptoe along a fine wire of gooseberry rich fruit. Delicately poised yet potent, this is a lovely wine.

Bush Vines Semillon 2001, Somerfield 13.5 £5.00
Bitter hints of pea soup and lime. Interesting with fish dishes (spicy).

Danie de Wet Chardonnay 2001 16 £5.00
Lovely elegant fruit. Bargain for such accomplished, subtle richness.

Kumala Colombard Sauvignon 2001 14 £5.00
Tangy hints of satsuma and lemon.

Porcupine Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2001 15 £5–7
Elegant bite of quality acids coating spiky fruit. Selected stores

South Africa Dry White 2001, Somerfield 13 £3.50
Grassy, edgily rich.

South African Chardonnay 2001, Somerfield 15.5 £5.00
Rich, balanced, satisfying, well packed without being OTT.

South African Chenin Blanc 2001, Somerfield 14.5 £5.00
Good gooseberries and lime fruit.

South African Colombard 2001, Somerfield 15 £5.00
Good rich pickings here.

South African Colombard Chardonnay 2001, Somerfield 15.5 £5.00
Charm and precision edges of lemon and melon Excellent with food (fish) and mood (blue)

Van Loveren South African Sauvignon Blanc 2001 15 £5.00
Good tanginess of tangerine and gooseberry.

SPAR WHITE

Chiwara Colombard/ Sauvignon 1998, Spar 14 £3.00
An interesting companion for oriental food.

TESCO WHITE

African Legend Colombard 2000 14 £5.00
Crisp nutty edge to faintly pineapple and apple fruit.

Apostles Falls Chardonnay 2000 13 £5–7
Bit flat (yet fat) on the finish.

Arniston Bay Rosé 2000 13 £5.00

Cape Chenin Blanc NV, Tesco 15 £3.50

Fairview Chardonnay 2000 16 £5.99
This is a different sort of Chardonnay with melon, gooseberry and apricot and it expresses its difference via a subtle richness of some sort of herb and nut and in its lovely texture.

Fairview Goats do Roam Rosé 2000 16 £5.00
Superb rosé richness, textured and fine, with a hint of tannin, a touch of lemon and lime, and more than a suggestion of plum and blackberry all dry and dainty. Terrific food and mood wine
Selected stores

Fire Finch Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £5.00
Delicious herbaceous, nutty fruit with touches of fresh vine-tomato, gooseberry and basil. Delicious bundle of nervous energy to activate a slice of grilled turbot.

Goiya Kgeisje 2001 15 £5.00
Hints of pear, pineapple and lush lemon. Very refreshing and simple.

Oak Village Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14 £5.00
Very tangy and crisp. Good with prawns.

Rylands Grove Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2000 15.5 £4.00
Great value here: fruit of nuttiness and refined depth and a lovely dry peach/raspberry finish of subtlety and charm.

Rylands Grove Dry Muscat 2000 13 £5.00
Lovely grapey richness tempered by dryness and a firm texture. Excellent with mildly spiced Thai food or any fish dish using mint and/or coriander leaves.

Rylands Grove Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14.5 £5.00

South African Chardonnay 2000, Tesco 15 £3.00

South African Chardonnay/ Colombard NV, Tesco 14 £5.00

South African Medium Sweet White NV, Tesco 13 £3.50

Third Millennium Chenin Chardonnay 2001 14 £5.00
One of the blue bottle crowd. Stands out in this respect. A very rich, oriental food wine.

Van Loveren Blanc de Noir Red Muscadel Rosé 2000 14 £3.60

Winds of Change Chardonnay 2000 13 £5.00

WAITROSE WHITE

Colombard Chardonnay 2000, Waitrose 14.5 £5.00
Witless label but charming wit to the fruit.

Culemborg Cape White 13 £3.50
DRINK

Culemborg Unwooded Chardonnay, Western Cape 2000 12.5 £5.00

Diamond Hills Chenin Blanc/Chardonnay 2000 12 £5.00

Excelsior Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 £5.00
Some pleasantly rich touches.

Fairview Viognier, Paarl 2000 16.5 £7–10
Extremely elegant apricot-scented and fruited wine of superb texture. Quite gorgeously stacked with subtle surprises

Jordan Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £7–10
Lively, rich, aromatic, deep and hugely suitable for all kinds of spicy fish and poultry dishes.

Kumala Colombard/Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Rich apricots, gooseberries and lemons. Good for spicy oriental food

Spice Route Abbotsdale Colombard/Chenin Blanc 1999 15 £7–10

Springfield Sauvignon Blanc Special Cuvee 14.5 £5–7
DRINK
One of the Cape's most couth Sauvignons.

Steenberg Sauvignon Blanc 2000 13.5 £7–10
Dry and very constrained.

Steenberg Semillon 1999 16 £7–10
Unusual grassiness to the rich melon and lemon – great finish of impactful deliciousness

Warwick Estate Chardonnay, Stellenbosch 2000 16 £5–7
Superb class of fruit here, subtle yet ripe, excellent texture and a high class, confident finish.

SPAIN

The ability to produce great variety, high quality and tasty bargains.

ASDA RED

Conde de Navasques 1997 13.5 £5.00

Don Darias Tinto NV 13.5 £3.50

Mont Marcal Crianza 1997 14 £3.50

Torres Coronas Tempranillo 1999 16 £5–7
Excellent layers of firm, plump cherries and blackberries, lovely tannins and all round elegance. Why can't Rioja producers turn out Tempranillo like this?

BOOTHS RED

Amezola de la Mora Rioja Crianza 1997 12.5 £7–10
Very ripe and squashy (like wine made from windfall fruit)

Artadi Vinas de Gain Crianza, Rioja 1997 13.5 £7–10
Dry, cherry-rich, food friendly.

Casa de la Viña Valdepeñas 2000 13 £5.00
Delicious.

Casa Morena, Valdepeñas NV 14 £3.50

Castillo de Almansa Reserva Bodegas Piqueras 1995 13.5 £5.00
Rich soft plum fruit of substance and depth.

Guelbenzu Blue Label Navarra NV 16 £5–7
Vibrant tannins of delicious immodesty and personality help the berried fruit to a fine finish.

La Poema Garnacha Viñas Viejas 1999 13 £5.00

Mas Donis Capcanes Taragona 2000 16.5 £5.00
Superb texture, polished yet characterful, to blackberries and plums. Has very elegant tannins.

Ochoa Tempranillo Garnacha 1999 13 £5.00

Viña Alarba, Calatayud 13 £3.50
WOW
Sweet young thing.

Viña Albali Gran Reserva 1993 13 £5–7

Viña Borgia Campo de Borja 1999 13 £5.00

BUDGENS RED

Berberana Dragon Tempranillo 1999 14 £5.00
Ripe and very curry friendly.

Berberana Rioja Tempranillo 1999 14 £5–7
Svelte and soft and highly quaffable.

Masia Monistrol Tempranillo Garnacha Penedés 2000 14.5 £5.00
A firm meaty red with characterful tannins (tenacious on the finish) and solid berried fruit. Rather what one might call, old fashionedly, a bistro red.

Palacio de la Vega Cabernet Sauvignon/ Tempranillo 1998 13.5 £5–7
Coffee, cassis, tannins, touch of leather, hint of cream of cauliflower soup – enough of a meal for anyone here.

Piedemonte Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon, Navarra 1999 13 £5.00
Very juicy. Suits . . . you know what it suits.

Viña Albali Bataneros Barrel Aged Tempranillo, Valdepeñas 1999 13 £5.00
Very dry on the finish. Really puckers the cheeks without compensating depth of fruit.

Viña Albali Gran Reserva 1993 15 £5–7

Viña Sardana Tempranillo, Calatayud 1999 14.5 £5.00
Good brisk tannins and a hint of chocolate on the finish.

CO-OP RED

Berberana Rioja Tempranillo 1999 14 £5.00
Svelte and soft and highly quaffable.

Berberana Rioja Viura 1999 13 £5.00
Bit too woody. Overwhelms the fruit. Not at Convenience Stores.

Campo Rojo Carineña NV 12 £3.50
Sheer juice.

Chestnut Gully Monastrell-Merlot 1999, Co-op 13.5 £5.00
Delicious chocolate and, indeed, roasted chestnut fruit. Remarkable texture to it, chewy and deep. Not at Convenience Stores.

Rioja Tinto, Viña Gala NV, Co-op 13.5 £5.00

Tempranillo Oak Aged NV, Co-op 13 £3.50

Tierra Sana Organic Wine 1999, Co-op 12 £5.00

A thrilling organic, unfiltered wine of huge substance and thrillingly deep and all-enveloping fruit which is absurdly inexpensive. Lovely savoury bouquet, big blackcurrant and cherry fruit and a lushly tannic finish. A real beaut of a bargain.

XV Monastrell 2000 16 £5.00
Sports the cheekiest label I've seen for years with the alcohol content, 15%, scrawled large. And what a big, deep wine it is, full of interest and nuances. Superstores only

KWIK SAVE RED

Don Darias Red NV 14.5 £3.50
Old war horse in fighting fettle.

Flamenco Red NV 14 £3.50

Viña Cana Rioja Crianza 1998, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Good tangy stuff.

M & S RED

Almuran Monastrell 2000 15 £5.00
Soft, ripe, handsomely textured and warm.

Las Falleras 2000 13.5 £3.50
A brisk, characterful barbecue wine. Full of toasty flavours.

Marisa Tempranillo 13 £5.00
[illegible]
Very very very soft. Good to pour over sausages and mash.

Rioja Roseral Crianza 1998 13 £5–7
Dry finish, bit bony, after a plummy opening of no great impact.

MORRISONS RED

Baldoma Tinto Seleccio 1999 14 £3.00
Ripe yet dry to finish.

Gran Feudo Navarra Crianza 1997 13 £5.00

Poema Old Vine Garnacha 2000 14 £5.00
Plummy fruit with hints of nut and herb. Suit spicy food. And being chilled.

Rio Rojo Tinto NV 14 £3.50

Torres Sangre de Toro 1999 14 £5–7
The bullnecked brand with simple plummy fruit and gentle tannins

Vega del Rio Reserva Rioja 1994 13 £7–10

Vega del Rio Rioja 1998 13 £5–7
Very coconutty and dry.

SAFEWAY RED

Baltasar Gracian Tempranillo 1999 13 £5.00

Campo Viejo Crianza 1998 12 £5–7

Finishes on its face instead of its feet.

Castillo Ygay Rioja Gran Reserva 1989 13.5 £13–20
Old-fashioned, subtly oxidised, pruney style – good for rich game dishes – with hints of liquorice and gravy. Almost sweet as it finishes

Ceremonia, Utiel Requena 1996 16.5 £7–10
Stunning class here. Loads of woody flavours, hedgerow and orchard fruits and superb tannins. It's a very potent red. 48 stores.

Cosme Palacio y Hermanos, Rioja 1998 17 £5–7
The essence of how truly elegant and fine Rioja can become.

Faustino I Gran Reserva 1994 11 £10–13
I like the tannins . . . but on any other wine but this . . .

Faustino V Rioja Reserva 1996 12 £7–10
Has some bulk to its fruit but overall rather too much bulk on the price tag in relation to this fruit is what spoils the experience.

Marques de Murrieta Reserva Tinto 1997 10 £7–10
So fruitless it's like looking for life on Pluto. Selected stores.

Marques de Riscal Rioja Gran Reserve 1994 10 £13–20
You breathe in coconut. You spit out tannins. Selected stores.

Navasques Navarra 1999 16 £5.00
Energy, bite, character and class – has fine, savoury tannins, touches of thyme, and hints of cocoa to the berries

Siglo 1881 1999 10 £5.00
Dire. Selected stores.

Valdepeñas Reserva Aged in Oak 1995, Safeway 15 £5.00

Young Vatted Tempranillo 1999, Safeway 15 £3.50
Very dry, aromatic and full of interesting edges including a tannic one. Highly drinkable and food friendly.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Alteza 600 Old Vines Garnacha NV 16 £5.00
Burnt leaves and ripe plums, dry tannins, vivid acidity and fruit balance. Superb for food or mood. Selected stores

Alteza 750 Tempranillo NV 16 £5.00
Why drink expensive Rioja when there is this compelling reason to spend so much less? Gorgeously rich fruit which stays firm and dry even as it strikes with such vivacity. Most stores.

Alteza Tempranillo Cabernet Sauvignon La Mancha 1999 14 £5.00
More Temp than Cab, this very

energetic wine has loads of spicy, food-friendly richness and rampant ripeness. Most stores.

Dama de Toro 1998 15.5 £5.00
A very civilised, softly fruity quaffing wine composed of plums, berries and cherries. Most stores.

Epulum Rioja Crianza, Bodegas Olarra 1998 13.5 £5–7
Very ripe, baked overtone on the finish.

Jumilla NV, Sainsbury's 15.5 £5.00

Navarra NV, Sainsbury's 16 £5.00
Superb bargain. Lovely tobacco-edged fruit, classy and rich, with loads of freshness and depth behind it. Terrific quaffing wine.

Ochoa Gran Reserva, Navarra 1993 16 £10–15
A distinguished grandee of a rich treat: tobacco-edged, rich, very dry and subtly figgy (and a touch raisiny), this is an unusually mature wine to find in a supermarket. It's at its peak of drinkability. Limited distribution.

Ondarre Reserva Rioja 1996 15 £7–10
Oddly obvious and soft for a Rioja, extremely fruity and full. Great with robust food – and robust company. Limited distribution

Stowells of Chelsea Tempranillo NV (3 litre box) 13 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent.

Valencia Oak Aged NV, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5.00

Viña Albali Gran Reserva 1993 15 £5–7

Viña Ardanza Rioja Reserva 1994 13.5 £10–13

SOMERFIELD RED

Don Darias Red NV 14.5 £3.50
Old war horse in fighting fettle.

Espiral Tempranillo Barrique Somontano 1999 15.5 £5–7
Delicious. And perkier than many a Rioja costing more. Selected stores.

Pergola Tempranillo 2000, Somerfield 13 £5.00
Very juicy.

Santa Elisa La Mancha Red 1999 10 £3.50
Bananas? Crème of vanilla, too

Sierra Alta Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 16 £5.00
Superb texture and classic soft blackberries. Terrific tannins here. Selected stores.

Sierra Alta Tempranillo 1999 14.5 £5.00
Very dry, very. Has plums in it and old boots.

Valencia Red NV, Somerfield 13.5 £3.50
PTA party wine – good wine for heavy smokers.

Viña Cana Rioja Crianza 1998, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Good tangy stuff.

Viña Cana Rioja Reserva 1995, Somerfield 15 £5–7
Very solemn tannins mitigate the smiling generosity of the warm fruit

SPAR RED

Rioja Crianza 1997, Spar 13 £5–7
Has some good plummy richness, expensive, but of interest to Balti eaters

Rioja NV, Spar 12 £5–7
Bit thin on the finish. Bones showing through the flesh (what there is of it)

Valencia Soft Red NV, Spar 12.5 £3.50
Has a dry finish to some plummy fruit.

TESCO RED

Campillo Reserva Rioja 1995 13 £10–13

Campo Viejo Crianza 1997 13 £5–7

Don Darias NV 13.5 £5.00

Huge Juicy Red NV, Tesco 13.5 £5.00
Lives up to its name and very vivaciously so. Brilliant texture, tannins and tenacious richness. Brilliant with spicy Balti dishes. Most stores

Las Postas Rioja 2000 14 £3.50
Incredible value but requires spicy food to show off its best

Marques de Chive Reserva 1995, Tesco 14.5 £5.00
Dry, plump, deep, flavoursome – almost over-ripe. However, with food (very necessary) it'll perform small miracles.

Marques de Chive Tempranillo NV, Tesco 13 £3.50

Marques de Grinon Rioja 1999 16 £5–7
Consistently one of the most classy Riojas, polished yet characterful, and in this vintage softer and riper than previous ones

Orobio Tempranillo Rioja 1999 16 £5.00
Superb example of Rioja which puts to and shame many much-vaunted compatriots pounds more expensive. Has complex levels of flavour, fine tannins, a very classy finish, and overall a really compelling texture. A remarkable bargain under-a-fiver. And only a very vague hint of the dreaded wood vanilla

Senorio de los Llanos Valdepeñas Gran Reserva 1994 14 £5.00

Senorio de los Llanos Valdepeñas Reserva 1996 14 –£5.00

Simply Garnacha 1999, Tesco 14 –£3.50

Tempranillo 1999, Tesco 15 –£5.00

Torres Coronas Tempranillo 1999 16 £5–7
Excellent layers of firm, plump cherries and blackberries, lovely tannins and all round elegance. Why can't Rioja producers turn out Tempranillo like this?

Torres Sangre de Toro 1999 14 £5–7
The bullnecked brand with simple plummy fruit and gentle tannins

Viña Mara Gran Reserva Rioja 1994 13 £7–10
Another Tesco 'Finest' wine Expensive, not as compact as the cheaper Viña Mara, and finishes less emphatically.

Viña Mara Rioja Reserva 1996, Tesco 15.5 £7–10
One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range, this is a superior example of the breed for it has highly civilised tannins balancing rich, deep fruit of class and precision.

Viña Mara Rioja, Tesco 14 £5.00

Viña Montana Monastrell/Merlot 1998 16 –£5.00
Superb texture here, classy, ripe and all-enveloping and the soft tannins are yielding up meaty undertones

Zorro Tempranillo/ Monastrell 2000 14 –£5.00
Ripe, dry and hugely curry friendly.

WAITROSE RED

Chivite Coleccion 125 Reserva 1996 16 £13–20
Very elegant and rich, and superbly well organised. Lovely stuff.

Cosme Palacio Rioja 1998 15 £5–7
Smooth, rich and deep. Very elegantly tailored.

Espiral Oaked Tempranillo 1998 15 £5–7

Espiral Tempranillo/ Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 16 –£5.00
Tobacco, tannins, concentration, class – plus character and bite. Terrific stuff.

Marques de Grinon Dominio de Valdepusa Syrah 1998 17 £10–13
A great Spanish wine offering a wonderful concentrated richness and lithe plumpness: plums, liquorice, chocolate and coffee plus, would you credit, coriander and cowslips. A heady brew here of Wordsworthian grandiosity.

Palacio de Otazu Reserva, Navarra 1996 16 £7–10

Super texture and tightness to the ripe fruit. Very elegant and excitingly biting for the palate.

Torneo Reserva, Valdepeñas 1996 14 £5.00
A juicy, spicy food wine.

Torres Gran Sangre de Toro Reserva 1996 16 £5–7
Wonderful vintage of the old warhorse – the best for some time. Great tannins, herbs, richness of layered fruit and a striking finish.

Totally Tinto Tempranillo NV 14 £5.00
Ripe curry wine.

Totally Two Thousand Tempranillo NV (magnum) 15.5 £3.50

Viña Fuerte Garnacha, Calatayud 2000 15.5 £5.00
Brilliant value: spiced berries, deep tannins and a long rich finish of weight and wit.

Viña Herminia Graciano Reserva Rioja 1995 14 £7–10
Vanilla and roasted coconut aroma you either like or loathe.

Viña Herminia Rioja Crianza 1996 14 £5–7
Dusting of tannins keeps some semblance of sanity as the fruit goes sodden.

Viña Lanciano Reserva 1995 13 £13–20
Very juicy and expensive.

ASDA WHITE

Baron de Ley Rioja Blanco 1999 13.5 £5.00
Somewhat muted and limping on the finish.

Bodegas Cerrosol Sauvignon Rueda 1998 15 £5.00

Moscatel de Valencia NV, Asda 16 £3.50
Brilliant sweet wine for crème brulées, ice creams and fruit salad. Has a delicious undertone of marmalade.

Spanish Oaked White NV, Asda 15.5 £3.50

BOOTHS WHITE

Castillo de Maluenda Blanco 2000 15 £3.50
What a price for such dry, elegant fruit.

Castillo de Maluenda Rosado 2000 13.5 £3.50

Estrella, Moscatel de Valencia NV 16 £5.00
Superb muscat sweetness and hints of marmalade. Marvellous with ice cream.

Palacio de Bornos Rueda 2000 15 £5.00
Excellent texture, gently oleaginous and ripe, but not remotely OTT.

Santa Lucia Viura, Vino de la Tierra Manchuela 1999 14 £3.50
Bargain – bonny bargain.

Viña Albali Rosado 13.5 £5.00
2000
Plums and dry lemons.

BUDGENS WHITE

Blanco, La Nature 13.5 £5.00
Organic, La Mancha
[illegible]
Expensive, dry, hints of raspberry and lemon. Disappointing for organic grapes.

Castillo de Liria 15.5 £5.00
Moscatel de Valencia
NV

Masia Monistrol 13 £5.00
Chardonnay Macabeo
2000
Bit confused as it surges.

CO-OP WHITE

Gandia Grenache Rosé 14.5 £3.00
1999
Superb little cherry ripe rosé of some class. Superstores only.

Jaume Serra 16 £5.00
Chardonnay 1999
From one of the unsung heroes of Catalan winemaking. A ridiculously well priced, rich, handsomely textured, charming wine of mannered complexity and style.

Torres Viña Sol 2000 15.5 £5.00
Lovely tangy melons and lemons
Superstores only.

KWIK SAVE WHITE

Moscatel de Valencia, 16 £3.50
Somerfield
Delicious honey and subtle orange marmalade fruit. Marvellous with complex, rich puddings.

M & S WHITE

Moscatel de Valencia 16 £5.00
2000
Lovely waxy richness with fine honeyed fruit with touches of raspberry and very subtle marmalade

MORRISONS WHITE

Poema Sauvignon 13.5 £5.00
Blanc 2000
Perfumed and oriental food friendly.

Torres San Valentin 12 £5.00
2000
Sweet, fat, rich fruit of little subtlety.

Viña Albali Rosado 13.5 £3.50
2000
Plums and dry lemons.

SAFEWAY WHITE

El Velero Rosé 12 £3.50
Valdepeñas 2000
Terribly insubstantial. Almost the ghost of a rosé.

Faustino V Rioja 13 £5.99
Crianza NV

Horrific overwoody fruit. Might as well suck a plank of balsa and chew a melon.

Marques de Murrieta Capellania 1996 12 £7–10
Too much chewy wood

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Castillo Imperial Blanco NV, Somerfield 13.5 £3.50

Don Darias White NV 14 £5.00

Mimbral Penedés Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Fatter edged Chardonnay with touches of walnut and lemon.

Moscatel de Valencia, Somerfield 16 £3.50
Delicious honey and subtle orange marmalade fruit. Marvellous with complex, rich puddings.

Pergola Oaked Viura 2000, Somerfield 13 £5.00
Dry, nutty, hint of lemon. Very fresh and crisply styled.

Viña Cana Rioja Blanco 2000, Somerfield 14.5 £5.00
A more adventurous style of white Rioja and very good it is: crisper, fresher, more Italian in feel.

SPAR WHITE

Perfect for Parties White NV, Spar (1 litre) 10 £3.50
Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent

Valencia Dry White NV, Spar 11.5 £3.50

TESCO WHITE

Moscatel de Valencia, Tesco 16 £3.50
Quite superb! Has an overtone of orange marmalade to the honey and the raspberry and pear sweetness. Wonderful taint-free screwcap!

Torres Viña Sol 2000 13.5 £5.00
Lovely tangy melons and lemons.

WAITROSE WHITE

Albarino Pazo de Seoane, Rias Baixas 2000 12 £7–10

Cune Monopole Rioja Blanco 1998 14 £5–7
Very ripe. Suits Tandoori prawns.

Lustau Moscatel de Chipiona NV 16 £5.00
Superb spicy honey here. Brilliant wine to accompany sweet pastry desserts.

Palacio de Bornos Rueda 2000 13 £5.00
Excellent texture, gently oleaginous and ripe, but not remotely OTT.

Torres Viña Sol 2000 13.5 £5.00
Lovely tangy melons and lemons.

TUNISIA

Can grow fine wine grapes . . . but . . .

SAINSBURY'S RED

Accademia del Sole [illegible]
Carignan 2000
Ripe, sweet, overpriced and very over-cooked as a specimen of fruitiness. Selected stores

URUGUAY

Has, in Tannat, its own grape that is the key to making some terrific red wines.

M & S RED

Polo Sur Pisano Family Reserve Tannat 2000 14 £7–10
Finishes with eccentric sweetness for a ten quid wine.

SAINSBURY'S RED

Bright Brothers Merlot/Tannat 1998 14 £5.00

Don Pascual Reserve Tannat 2000 16 £8–9
Energy and richness, depth and daring – this is a terrific, tannically rich red of gallant, fighting-style richness and warmth. 174 selected stores

SOMERFIELD RED

Bright Brothers Tannat Cabernet Franc 2000 16 £5.00
Wow! It explodes with flavour and personality. Great food wine.

WAITROSE RED

Pisano Family Reserve Tannat 1999 13 £7–10
Very sweet.

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Bright Brothers Uruguayan Sauvignon/Semillon 2000 15.5 £5.00
Immensely quaffable, crisp/soft fruit, refreshing to finish. Lovely aperitif.

USA

Vast untapped potential in more States than you would believe possible.

ASDA RED

Rosemount 'V' NV 14 £5–7
Rather a guilty edge of richness
A parvenu conscience perhaps?

Garnet Point Shiraz Cabernet 2000 15.5 £3.00
Rich savoury fruit, touch of spice, soft accessible tannins Perfect vegetable quaffing and bangers-and-mash-friendly fruit. Has a warm, ready charm.

Talus Merlot 1998 13 £5–7
More sweets packed in a bottle.

Talus Zinfandel 1998 13 £5–7
Very sweet.

BOOTHS RED

Stonybrook Merlot 1999 13.5 £5–7
Lovely dry leather and cassis fruit

Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 12 £5–7
Makes a good marinade for a dead cow but not so thrilling for a live tongue.

BUDGENS RED

Garnet Point Shiraz Cabernet 2000 15.5 £5.00
Rich savoury fruit, touch of spice, soft accessible tannins. Perfect vegetable quaffing and bangers-and-mash-friendly fruit. Has a warm, ready charm.

Glen Ellen Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 13 £5–7

Marc Xero Merlot 1999 14 £5.00
Some good tannins to the dry berries

Sutter Home Merlot 1998 13 £5–7

CO-OP RED

California Premium Red NV, Co-op 13.5 £3.50
A first rate curry wine. Has fatness and sweetness and clingability (to chillies).

Fetzer Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 14.5 £5–7
[redacted]
Mildly diverting blackberries.

Superstores only.

'Laid Back Ruby' California Ruby Cabernet 1999, Co-op 11.5 £5.00

Sebastiani Sonoma Cask Old Vine Zinfandel 1998 15.5 £7–10
Expensive but luxuriously well appointed. The scaffolding of the rich wood does not mar the brickwork, slightly rococo in parts, in any way

M & S RED

Clear Lake Cabernet Franc 2000 15 £5.00
Deliciously textured, soft plums which has well-balanced tannins to buttress the fruit.

Freedom Ridge Shiraz 2000 13.5 £5–7
Soft, rich, ripe and very OK with spicy Middle Eastern meat balls

Live Oak Road Old Bush Vine Zinfandel 2000 13.5 £7–10
Very soft, ripe and ready, but ten quid? Not in my book. If it was a fiver it would rate 15 for it does have some gusto on the finish.

Zamora Zinfandel 1999 12 £5–7
Smells like a pear-drop with raspberry essence on it. The fruit, struggling to recover from this chutzpah, is more soft, ripe Cal squashed fruit.

MORRISONS RED

Beringer Zinfandel 1999 15 £5–7
Lovely dusky dryness with berries of some substance at its core

Blossom Hill California Red NV 10 £5.00
Vomit worthy sweetness.

Blossom Hill Merlot 1999 13 £5–7
Expensive, touch expensive.

Fetzer Bonterra Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 14 £7–10

Glen Ellen Pinot Noir 1997 9 £5–7
Ugh!

Glen Ellen Zinfandel 1998 13.5 £5–7

Ironstone Vineyards Cabernet Franc 1997 16 £5–7
Really buzzes with layers of spice, plums, blackcurrants, raspberries, chocolate and superbly soft tannins

Ironstone Vineyards Shiraz 1998 14.5 £5.00

'M' Californian Red NV 14 £3.50
Very bright and well packed with berried fruit. Excellent texture.

Nathanson Creek Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £5.00
Deep flavoured, curry-friendly (yet dry) fruit. Very mouth filling.

Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 12 £5–7

Turning Leaf Zinfandel 1996 12.5 £5–7

SAFEWAY RED

Echelon Merlot 1998 13 £7–10

Pacific Coast Ruby Cabernet 2000
Selected stores 12 £5.00

Pepperwood Grove Syrah 1999 13.5 £5–7
Very jammy and with ripe tannins Selected stores

SAINSBURY'S RED

Blossom Hill Californian Red NV 10 £5.00
Vomit worthy sweetness.

Buckeye Vineyard Single Vineyard Series Cabernet Sauvignon, Kendall Jackson 1996 16.5 £13–20
Rather splendid in its isolated, plough-a-lonely furrow fruitiness and superbly tannic tenacity. Has great individuality and depth, class and richness. Gripping from nose to throat. 3 selected stores.

Four Vines Paso Robles Zinfandel 1997 11 £7–10
Simply too juicy. And the price tag is an outrage. 150 selected stores.

Kendall Jackson Vintners Reserve Pinot Noir 1998 16 £7–10
Superb Pinot aroma of truffles and farmyards and the fruit, though too juicy to be classic, has lovely cherries and wild raspberries. Good tannins. 130 selected stores.

La Crema Pinot Noir 1998 16 £10–13
Lovely dry classic Pinot finish to fine fruit of cherries and plums. Has elegance and rich charm. 35 selected stores.

Marc Xero Merlot 1999 14 £5.00
Some good tannins to the dry berries

SOMERFIELD RED

Californian Dry Red NV, Somerfield 13 £5.00

Hidden Falls Carnelian Merlot 2000 11 £3.50
Sticky tannins and toffee-rich fruit of great oddity.

Laguna Canyon Zinfandel NV 10 £5.00
Dislike the aroma of fruit salad (baked) and loathe the crudity of the fruit. Not even a Balti would redeem it.

Marc Xero Merlot 1999 14 £5.00
Some good tannins to the dry berries

Talus Zinfandel 1998 13 £5–7
Very sweet.

Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 12 £5–7

Turning Leaf Zinfandel 1996 12.5 £5–7

SPAR RED

Fetzer Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 13.5 £5–7

Heritage Red 1999 14 £3.00
Soupy but has some textured tannins to buttress this. Good pasta plonk.

TESCO RED

Fetzer Barrel Select Pinot Noir 1997 15 £7–10
Unusual tobacco scented prologue, lovely texture to the cherries and a hint of truffle, and a real classy, if ripe and New Worldy, finish. Overall, a surprisingly accomplished Pinot.

Fetzer Barrel Select Zinfandel 1997 15.5 £7–10
Gushes with ripe, well-meaning fruit, touch sweet on the finish, and the tannins are well integrated and soft. Has a lovely layered richness.

Fetzer Syrah 1997 12 £5–7
Getting old at four years of age and it's lost its vibrancy and the bravura edge to the Pinot.

Gallo Turning Leaf Zinfandel 1998 12 £5–7
Quietly rich and quaffable at four quid but at £6 50 it's very poor value.

West Coast California Cabernet/Shiraz 2000, Tesco 12 £3.00
Don't like the overripeness of the smell on the finish. But with curried goat's liver with pickled okra it might work.

West Coast Merlot Reserve 1999, Tesco 14.5 £5–7
Dry, rich, leathery hints to blackcurrant ripeness. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores.

West Coast Ruby Cabernet/Merlot 1999, Tesco 15 £3.00

West Coast Zinfandel Reserve 1999, Tesco 13 £5–7
Juicy ands simperingly sweet. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Most stores.

WAITROSE RED

Bonterra Vineyards Merlot 1997 (organic) 16.5 £7–10
Thrillingly ripe, herby tannins and great levels of fruit (prunes, cherries and blackberries).

Fetzer Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 14.5 £5–7
Mildly diverting blackberries.

Hedges Three Vineyards Columbia Valley 1998 13 £13–20
Very tannic and interesting but at sixteen quid it should have more elements.

Ironstone Vineyards Zinfandel 1998 10 £5–7
Not overkeen on its lushness.

Yorkville Cellars Cabernet Franc 1997 (organic) 14 £7–10

Yorkville Petit Verdot 1997 16 £7–10
Much more like it, Yorkville! Brilliantly bustling tannins to lovely purple damson fruit. Spicy, deep, warm.

ASDA WHITE

Ca'del Solo Malvasia Bianca, Bonny Doon 1998 12 £7–10
Odd cosmetic dryness and near rawness of expression. Only at the Bristol Supercentre.

Garnet Point Semillon Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5.00
Refreshing tangy satsumas, lemon and melon

BOOTHS WHITE

Stonybrook Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Rich and ripe fruit but the controlling acids balance it well.

BUDGENS WHITE

Garnet Point Semillon Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5.00
Refreshing tangy satsumas, lemon and melon.

CO-OP WHITE

Garnet Point Chardonnay-Chenin 1997 15.5 £5.00

Sebastiani Sonoma Chardonnay 1998 15.5 £7–10
Expensive but luxuriously well appointed. The scaffolding of the rich wood does not mar the brickwork, slightly rococo in parts, in any way. Superstores only.

'The Big Chill' California Colombard Chardonnay 1999, Co-op 13.5 £5.00

'The Big Chill' California Colombard Chardonnay 2000, Co-op 13.5 £5.00
Limey touches to the fruit.

M & S WHITE

Clear Lake Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00
Bruised fruit (soft and ripe), melon, cauliflower and pears. A lot going on here. Very vivacious.

Clear Lake Rosé Merlot/Cabernet 2000 12 £5.00

Adolescent fruit – almost Lollipop rich and cheeky

Dunnigan Lane Fume Blanc 2000 15.5 £6–7
Very elegant, slightly creamy, smoky fruit.

Gardeners Grove Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £7–10
Rich, ready, stylish. Very controlled undertone of ripeness which finishes well.

MORRISONS WHITE

Glen Ellen Chardonnay 1998 15.5 £5–7
Delicious rich fruit combining a touch of spicy pear to the usual melon/lemon/pineapple etc.

Ironstone Chardonnay 1998 10 £5–7

'M' Californian White NV 13 £3.50
Dry and indelicate. The label is probably the worst Californian in existence (5 out of 20 here).

Nathanson Creek White Zinfandel 1999 11 £5.00
Very sweet and simpering.

Wente Johannesburg Riesling 1997 16.5 £5.00
Terrific spice and lime sherbet fruit here. Not wholly dry, to be sure, but it bounces with life and would be terrific with Thai food.

SAFEWAY WHITE

Bonterra Muscat 1999 (half bottle) (organic) 14 £5–7

Pacific Coast Chardonnay 2000 14 £5.00
Rich, fleshy fruit. Needs Thai cuisine possibly. Selected stores.

Pyramid Lake Napa Gamay Rosé NV 8 £5.00
Revoltingly cosmetic and 'manufactured'. An insult to the grape.

SAINSBURY'S WHITE

Blossom Hill NV 10 £5.00
So boring you must be careful not to yawn as you sip. Selected stores.

Bonterra Muscat 1999 (half bottle) (organic) 14 £5–7

Fetzer Valley Oaks Rosé 2000 13.5 £5–7
Very rich and ripe. Most stores.

Kendall Jackson Single Vineyard Series Camelot Chardonnay 1998 14 £10–13
Too woody for me. 3 selected stores.

Kendall Jackson Vintners Reserve Chardonnay 1998 15 £7–10
Very forward, creamy and rich, and woody. A brilliant wine to match with all kinds of poultry dishes. 130 selected stores.

Sutter Home 14 £5.00
Gewürztraminer 2000
Sweet rich fruit and peach and strawberry. Suit Peking duck.
Most stores

Sutter Home 14 £5.00
Sauvignon Blanc 2000
Simple lip-smacking gooseberries.
Most stores

SOMERFIELD WHITE

Fetzer Sundial 14 £5–7
Chardonnay 1999
Tending to get expensive.

Sebastiani Sonoma 15.5 £7–10
Chardonnay 1998
Expensive but luxuriously well-appointed. The scaffolding of the rich wood does not mar the brickwork, slightly rococo in parts, in any way.

Talus Chardonnay 1998 16.5 £5–7
Superb value fruit for you get authentic California all-surfin' fruit and sunshine. Deep and delicious

SPAR WHITE

Heritage Californian 10 £5.00
White 1999
Almost revoltingly cosmetic and perfumed.

TESCO WHITE

Fetzer Barrel Select 15 £7–10
Chardonnay 1997

Fetzer Valley Oaks 13.5 £5–7
Rosé 2000
Very rich and ripe. Most stores.

Gallo Turning Leaf 13 £5–7
Chardonnay 1999
Expensive for the level of excitement on offer. It doesn't seen complete

West Coast California 14.5 £5.00
Chardonnay 1999,
Tesco

WAITROSE WHITE

Bonterra Muscat 1999 14 £5–7
(half bottle) (organic)
Gently honeyed aperitif.

Fetzer Echo Ridge 15.5 £5–7
Viognier 2000
Very well put together fruit and acids offering tangy peaches and gentle lemons

Mandolin Californian 11 £5–7
Chardonnay 1999

PART 2

FORTIFIED AND SPARKLING WINES

FORTIFIED WINES

ASDA

Dow's LBV Port 1995 14.5 £7–10
(Portugal)
Has some real texture and the sweet plums and subtle bitter cherries are helped, in the end, by some husky tannins

Fine Ruby Port, Asda 18 £5–7

Graham's LBV Port 13.5 £10–13
1994 (Portugal)
Rich ripe alcoholic plums which strike warm on the finish.

Manzanilla, Asda 17 £5–7
A staggeringly well endowed, aromatic, yet subtle sherry of immense charm and richness Unusually well-textured and soft (uniquely so, I suggest) and so warm and approachable it must convert those who previously found the tea leaf and hard edge of this style of wine too austere.

Tawny Port, Asda 19 £5–7

Warre's Optima 10 13.5 £7–10
Year Old Tawny Port
NV (Portugal) 50cl
Sweet, brown/orange colour, hint of caramel toffee. Good with fruit cake.

Warre's Warrior 18 £7–10
Special Reserve Port
NV (Portugal)
Sweet and rich with a touch of wet rag on the finish.

BOOTHS

Amontillado del 16 £7–10
Puerto, Lustau
Sure, it smells mouldy and too ripe for comfort but imagine a glass, well-chilled, with a bowl of almonds and an absorbing book. Great combination.

Banyuls Chapoutier 18 £7–10
1997 (50cl)
Perfect with chocolate at the end of a meal

Churchills Dry White 13 £7–10
Port

Finest Reserve Port, 14.5 £7–10
Booths

Fino NV, Booths 14 £5.00
Has a good chewy texture to its tangy minerals. Not as bone dry as some

Henriques & Henriques 5 Year Old Madeira NV 18 £10–13
Expensive curiosity. Goes with sweet digestive crackers and the dentured set.

Lustau Old East India Sherry 17 £7–10
Magnificent name, recalling the excesses of the Empire, just as the intense sweet fruit (molasses and butterscotch with crème brulée overtones) is redolent of excess around Victorian dinner tables. A taste of history. Quite marvellous stuff

Manzanilla Sherry, Booths 15 £5.00

Medium Amontillado NV, Booths 15.5 £5.00

Niepoort LBV Port 1996 14 £10–13
Sweet, rich, figgy wine · good with Christmas cake.

Niepoort Ruby Port 14 £7–10

Dow's LBV 1995 (Portugal) 14.5 £7–10
Has some real texture and the sweet plums and subtle bitter cherries are helped, in the end, by some husky tannins.

Graham's LBV Port 1994 (Portugal) 13.5 £10–13
Rich ripe alcoholic plums which strike warm on the finish.

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV (Portugal) 13 £7–10
Sweet and rich with a touch of wet rag on the finish.

MORRISONS

Dow's LBV Port 1995 (Portugal) 14.5 £7–10
Has some real texture and the sweet plums and subtle bitter cherries are helped, in the end, by some husky tannins.

Fonseca Bin No 27 Fine Reserve Port NV (Portugal) 13 £7–10
Thick, rich, sweet cherries and custard. A winter warmer for extremely cold hearts.

Graham's LBV Port 1994 (Portugal) 13.5 £10–13
Rich ripe alcoholic plums which strike warm on the finish

Taylor's Late Bottled Vintage Port 1995 (Portugal) 13 £7–10
Good thickness of fruit allied to rich layers of plums and baked blackcurrants. Raisins on the finish, and good lashings of tannin.

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV (Portugal) 13 £7–10
Sweet and rich with a touch of wet rag on the finish.

SAFEWAY

Blandy's Duke of Clarence Rich Madeira 16 £7–10
Wonderful old-fashioned plot: Dickensian, warm, sweet, sentimental. Drink it with Christmas cake. At most stores

González Byass Tio Pepe Fino Muy Sec NV 14 £7–10

Marsala Superiore, Garibalde Dolce NV (18% vol) 16 £5–7
Staggeringly rich and figgy. Wonderful for desserts of all descriptions (even if they all come served at once on the same grand plate). Or pour it over ice cream.

Taylor's 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 14 £13–20
Sweet but has some rich layers of fig and roast plum. Needs sweetmeats to accompany it. Has a very superior, thick texture.

Taylor's LBV Port 1995 15 £7–10
Good thickness of fruit allied to rich layers of plums and baked blackcurrants. Raisins on the finish, and good lashings of tannin.

Vintage Character Port, Safeway 13 £5–7

Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl 13.5 £7–10
Sweet, brown/orange colour, hint of caramel toffee. Good with fruit cake

Warre's Traditional LBV Port 1990 16.5 £13–20
The best LBV I've tasted which has lovely tannins and rich sweet plums and blackcurrants. It'll age for another fifteen years.

Warre's Warrior Finest Reserve Port NV 13 £7–10

SAINSBURY

Cockburn's 10 Year Old Tawny Port (half bottle) 13.5 £7–10
Cloying sweet fruit. Most stores.

Cockburn's Light White Port 14.5 £7–10
Delicious, if absurdly priced. Selected stores.

Dow's LBV 1995 14.5 £7–10
Has some real texture and the sweet plums and subtle bitter cherries are helped, in the end, by some husky tannins.

Dow's Quinta do Bonfim Vintage Port 1987 16.5 £13–20
A superbly well organised, figgily rich and sweet port with gorgeous tannins. Beautiful warmth and texture to it. Limited distribution.

Fino Sherry, Sainsbury's 16 £3.00
Great value for money. Who needs Tio Pepe?

Fonseca Bin No 27 Fine Reserve Port NV 13 £7–10
Thick, rich, sweet cherries and custard. A winter warmer for extremely cold hearts

González Byass Apostoles NV (half bottle) sherry 16.5 £10–13
Big and bustling yet delicate and elongated. It's a wine to drink (one of those dangerous ones) with Anita Brookner or Michael

Dibdin: a rich, brown, voluptuous, crème-brulée and toffeed wine. Limited distribution

González Byass Matusalem NV (half bottle) sherry 17 £10–13
Axel grease to ease the progress of sweetmeats and post-prandial seductions. Limited distribution.

Graham's 20 Year Old Tawny Port 16 £20+
This is more like what tawny port should be, But those twenty years you have to pay for: £26. The liquid is fine, raisiny and rich. 32 selected stores.

Graham's LBV Port 1994 13.5 £10–13
Rich ripe alcoholic plums which strike warm on the finish.

Hidalgo Manzanilla la Gitana NV sherry 16 £5–7
Lovely, more textured that JS's own label Manzanilla. Selected stores

Manzanilla, Sainsbury's 15.5 £3.00
Nuttier, more complex than fino, there's some real intrigue here (especially at this price). Most stores.

Sainsbury's LBV Port 1992 15.5 £7–10

Solear Manzanilla NV 16 £3–7
Superb baked nuts, tea leaves, hint of Peking duck, and extremely dry minerals. A super aperitif sherry – well-chilled. Limited distribution.

Tawny Port, Sainsbury's 13 £5–7
Sweet and old-fashioned

Taylor's 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 14 £13–20
Sweet but has some rich layers of fig and roast plum. Needs sweetmeats to accompany it. Has a very superior, thick texture.

Taylor's 20 Year Old Tawny Port NV 12 £20+
Thirty quid! Seven maybe. Currently at two stores only.

Taylor's LBV Port 1995 15 £7–10
Good thickness of fruit allied to rich layers of plums and baked blackcurrants. Raisins on the finish, and good lashings of tannin.

Taylors Vintage Port 1985 16 £20+
Again, a corked bottle at first. But, in tip-top condition, this port is extremely voluptuous, hedonistic, richly developed and polished. Currently at two stores only

Ten Year Old Tawny Port, Sainsbury's 13 £10–13
Sweet. Pricey.

Tio Pepe Sherry 13.5 £7–10
A gutsier label can't hide the fact that eight quid is eight quid and Tio Pepe is only marginally more crisp and more aromatic than Sainbury's £3.99 own-label fino. The choice is yours. Most stores.

Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port (50cl) 13.5 £7–10
Needs a slice of Christmas cake at your elbow. Or a piece of raspberry ripple cheesecake. 130 selected stores.

Warre's Traditional LBV Port 1990 16.5 £13–20
The best LBV I've tasted which has lovely tannins and rich sweet plums and blackcurrants. It'll age for another fifteen years.

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV 13 £7–10
Sweet and rich with a touch of wet rag on the finish.

SOMERFIELD

Amontillado Sherry, Somerfield 15 £3.00
Delicious figgy fruit.

Cream Sherry, Somerfield 13 £5.00
Very sweet and grandma friendly.

Dow's LBV 1995 14.5 £7–10
Has some real texture and the sweet plums and subtle bitter cherries are helped, in the end, by some husky tannins.

Fino Sherry, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Remarkable lilt on the finish which stops the wine being characterised as austere. A remarkably toothsome experience.

Manzanilla Sherry, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Superb nutty Earl Grey (subtle) tea leaf edge. A wonderful aperitif wine of great distinction.

Navigators LBV Port 1995, Somerfield 14.5 £5–7
Sweet, yes, but has tannins.

Navigators Ruby Port, Somerfield 14 £5.00
Sweet raisins and figs.

Navigators Vintage Character Port, Somerfield 14 £5–7
Big sweet richness

Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl 13.5 £7–10
Sweet, brown/orange colour, hint of caramel toffee. Good with fruit cake.

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV 13 £7–10
Sweet and rich with a touch of wet rag on the finish.

SPAR

Fino Sherry NV, Spar 14.5 £5.00
Not as saline as many and has a good chewy edge to the finish. Well-chilled this is a classic aperitif.

Old Cellar LBV Port 1995, Spar 14 £7–10
Sweet and rich and full and wicked with Christmas cake.

Old Cellar Ruby Port NV, Spar 14.5 £5–7

10 Year Old Tawny Port, Tesco 14 £10–13
Smells of Christmas cake and finishes with Christmas fruits and nuts and raisins. What this wine goes best with does not require a PPE degree to figure out.

Dow's LBV Port 1995 14.5 £7–10
Has some real texture and the sweet plums and subtle bitter cherries are helped, in the end, by some husky tannins.

Dow's Quinta do Bonfim Vintage Port 1986 13 £15–20
Needs another ten to fifteen years to become truly crusty and interestingly anecdotal. Worth laying down at the price.

Superior Oloroso Seco, Tesco 16 £3.50
Contemplating that lush amber hue, like the eyes of a rare snake, the promise of great things is evident and so it proves. It is dry yet it has burnt butter, molasses (dry), and a wonderful spread of flavours as it stretches itself over the palate. A quite superb drink, well-chilled, by itself, as an aperitif with nuts etc, and, supremely, as a bottle to read by. An Anita Brookner hero would drink this sherry and smile at life.

Superior Palo Cortado, Tesco 16 £5.00
For a pound more you get more life to the bouquet and a rich, plumper texture than Tesco's Superior Oloroso... but the sherry has many similar features. The Palo, perhaps, is more elegant and individual.

Warre's Otima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl 13.5 £7–10
Sweet, brown/orange colour, hint of caramel toffee. Good with fruit cake.

WAITROSE

10 Year Old Tawny Port, Waitrose 14 £10–13

Apostoles Palo Cortado Muy Viejo (half bottle) 18.5 £10–13
The ultimate bookworm's lone, hedonist treat: a sherry of huge treacly texture (but not sweetness), baked apple and cobnut crumble-edged fruit with touches of liquorice, and a stunningly gripping finish.

Dow's LBV Port 1995 14.5 £7–10
Has some real texture and the sweet plums and subtle bitter cherries are helped, in the end, by some husky tannins.

Fino Sherry, Waitrose 15.5 £5.00

Graham's LBV Port 1994 13.5 £10–13
Rich ripe alcoholic plums which strike warm on the finish.

Matusalem Oloroso Dulce Muy Viejo (half bottle) 16.5 £10–13
Brilliant sherry to clog the throats of carol singers. Has a rich toffeed undertone of burnt treacle.

Quinta da Noval 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 15 £13–20
Delicious fruitcake style of rich sweetness with an underlying dry yet honeyed complexity.

Solera Jerezana Dry Amontillado, Waitrose 16 £5–7
Stunning rich, dry, crème brulée edge. Marvellous cockle warmer, this sherry

Solera Jerezana Old Oloroso, Waitrose 16.5 £5–7
Roast walnuts, herbs, molasses, malt whisky (very subtle) – what a marvellous sherry.

Vintage Warre Quinta da Cavadinha 1987 17.5 £13–20
A magnificently complete port. It has a chewy texture (vibrant tannins), lovely complex fruit of immense depths and sunny ripeness, and lovely balance. It is a wine to stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, stun the soul.

Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl 13.5 £7–10
Sweet, brown/orange colour, hint of caramel toffee. Good with fruit cake.

Warre's Traditional LBV Port 1990 16.5 £13–20
The best LBV I've tasted which has lovely tannins and rich sweet plums and blackcurrants. It'll age for another fifteen years.

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV 14 £7–10
Sweet and rich with a touch of wet rag on the finish.

SPARKLING WINES

ASDA

Asti Spumante NV, Asda (Italy) 11 £5.00

Bleasdale Sparkling Shiraz 1999 16 £7–10
The perfect bubbly for the Xmas fowl. Spicy, rich, full, overflowing.

Cava Brut, Asda (Spain) 16.5 £5.00
Utterly superb. It's better than Krug at £100. More authentic value for money, unpretentious freshness and classic dryness.

Cava Medium Dry, Asda (Spain) 13 £5.00

Champagne Brut NV, Asda (France) 13.5 £10–13

De Bregille Vintage 1995 (France) 14 £13–20

Nicolas Feuillatte Blanc de Blancs NV (France) 13 £13–20

Rondel Cava NV (Spain) 14 £5–7

Stamps Sparkling 1999 (Australia) 15 £5–7

Vintage Cava 1996, Asda (Spain) 15.5 £5–7

BOOTHS

Brossault Rosé Champagne NV 13 £13–20

Bruno Paillard Champagne NV 15 £13–20

Champagne Baron-Fuenté Brut NV 15 £10–13

Champagne Fleurie NV (organic) 13 £13–20
Not as brilliantly fresh and magical as previous blends.

Champagne Gremillet NV 13.5 £13–20
Straightforward clear fruit.

Chandon Argentina Brut NV 15 £7–10

Chapelle de Cray Brut Rosé 1995 (France) 16 £5–7
Delicious, sanely priced bubbly of dry fruit with an undertone of cherry.

Concerto Lambrusco 1998 (Italy) 16 £5–7
Sparkling red wine? From Italy? Called Lambrusco? Ah! But this is the real thing. Magically yet impishly fruity, it is marvellous

with charcuterie at the start of a meal.

Crémant d'Alsace Cuvée Prestige NV 14 £7–10
Dry, crisp, elegant to finish.

Deutz NV (New Zealand) 13 £10–13

Hunter's Miru Miru 1998 (New Zealand) 16 £10–13
Lovely classic dryness, almost bone, but has echoes of lemon and some indefinable soft fruit.

Palau Brut Cava NV 13 £5.00
Odd soapiness to the fruit.

Piper Heidsieck Brut Champagne NV 15 £13–20

Prosecco Zonin NV (Italy) 16 £5.00
One of the world's great unsung bubbly wine bargains. Deliciously dry with a hint of strawberry.

BUDGENS

Budgens Brut Champagne NV (France) 12 £10–13

Budgens Rosé Champagne NV (France) 10 £10–13

Chandon Australia Brut NV 13.5 £7–10
Touch soupy as it finishes

Hardys Stamp Sparkling Chardonnay Pinot Noir NV (Australia) 14 £5–7

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand) 15 £5–7

Pol Acker Sparkling Chardonnay NV (France) 10 £5.00
Sweet (almost), dry (almost) sparkling wine (almost).

Rosemount V Sparkling Chardonnay NV 14.5 £7–10
Very charming plump fruit which manages to stay fresh on the finish.

CO-OP

Asti NV, Co-op 11 £5.00
Sweet and rice puddingy. Not at Convenience Stores

Australian Quality Sparkling Wine, Co-op 14 £5.00

Blossom Hill NV (USA) 13 £5–7

Cava Brut NV, Co-op 14 £5.00

English Sparkling Brut NV, Co-op 12 £5–7
Like fruit juice with a dodgy finish. Not at Convenience Stores.

Inanda Brut NV (South Africa) 13.5 £5.00
Terrific bubbly here. Has fruit yet crispness. Superstores only.

Jacob's Creek Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Australia) 15 £5–7

Jean de Bracieux Champagne NV (France) 12 £10–13
Drink cava is my advice.

Moscato Spumante NV, Co-op (Italy) 11 under £5.00

Rosemount V Sparkling Chardonnay NV 13.5 £5–7
Very charming plump fruit which manages to stay fresh on the finish. Superstores only.

Sparkling Chardonnay NV, Co-op (France) 12 under £5.00
Bit dull on the finish.

Sparkling Saumur NV, Co-op 11 £5–7
Rather soapy finish. Superstores only.

Tempranillo Brut Red NV, Co-op 13.5 £5–7

Y2K Champagne NV (France) 13 £13–20

KWIK SAVE

Asti Spumante NV, Somerfield 11.5 £5–7

Cava Brut NV, Somerfield 11 under £5.00
Nutty, elegant, dry. More accomplished than many Champagnes.

Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut NV 14 £5–7
Dry and crisp.

Martini Asti Spumante NV 13 £5–7
Very sweet indeed.

Moscato Fizz, Somerfield (Italy) 13 under £2.50
Torrid weather thirst quencher.

M&S

Bluff Hill Brut NV (New Zealand) 15 £5–7
Creamy digestive fruit gives the crisp dry finish some real charm.

Cava Brut NV (Spain) 13.5 £5–7

Cava Medium Dry NV (Spain) 12 £5–7

Champagne de St Gall Blanc de Blancs NV 13 £13–20

Champagne de St Gall Brut NV 13.5 £13–20

Champagne Desroches NV 13.5 £13–20

Champagne Oudinot Grand Cru 1997 16 £13–20
A very fine Champagne indeed with beautiful mineral-charged fruit of elegance and great style.

Cuvée Orpale Grand Cru 1990 12 £20+

Gold Label Sparkling Chardonnay NV (France) 16 £5–7
Excellent, dry, subtly fruity bubbly – elegance and classic tailoring at a third of the price of a comparable Champagne.

Oudinot Brut Champagne 13 £10–13

Vintage Cava 1997 16.5 £7–10
Superb classic dryness with a subtle, but plump, hint of strawberry. A fantastically classy bubbly for the money. Better than Krug.

MORRISONS

Barramundi Sparkling NV (Australia) 16 ~£5.00
Superb! A really deliciously fruity bubbly which isn't OTT. Terrific tasty yet dry finish.

Brut de Channay NV (France) 11 ~£5.00

Chapel Hill Chardonnay-Pinot Noir NV (Hungary) 12 ~£5.00

'M' Vintage Cava 1998 16 £5–7
Very classic dry fruit. As elegant as a fancy Champagne.

Mumm Cuvée Napa Brut NV (California) 16 £7–10
So much better than the French product, this elegant bubbly.

Nicole d'Aurigny Champagne NV 14 £7–10
As good as Champagne gets – under a tenner

Paul Herard Champagne Brut NV 12 £10–13

Reminger Sparkling Brut NV (France) 10 ~£3.00

Santa Carolina Chardonnay Brut 1996 (Chile) 13 £5–7

Seaview Brut NV (Australia) 14 £5–7

Seaview Brut Rosé (Australia) 13.5 £5–7

Sparkling Zero (alcohol free) 0 ~£2.50
And zero is what it scores. Why? It isn't wine. It's a crime.

SAFEWAY

Albert Etienne Champagne Brut Rosé NV, Safeway 10 £13–20
Oh come on!

Albert Etienne Champagne Vintage 1995, Safeway 12 £13–20
Pretty raw.

Asti Spumante NV, Safeway 10 ~£5.00
Sweet gunge.

Baron de Moncenay Chardonnay Brut NV 12 ~£5.00

Canard-Duchene Champagne Brut NV 14.5 £13–20
Dry, some elegance.

Chandon Argentina NV 15 £7–10

Chandon Australia Brut NV 13.5 £7–10
Touch soupy as it finishes

Conde de Caralt Cava Brut NV 16.5 £5–7
As elegant a Cava as they come. Knocks a thousand Champagnes into oblivion. Top 280 stores from mid June.

Freixenet Cava Rosada Brut NV 13.5 £5–7

Graham Beck Brut NV (South Africa) 14 £5–7

Lambrusco Rosé Light, Safeway (4%vol) 13.5 ~£2.50

Le Baron de Moncenay Merlot/Gamay Brut NV 15 ~£5.00

Great fun for barbecues and game dishes Selected stores

Le Monferrine Moscato d'Asti 1999 (5%) 13 £3.50

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand) 14 £7–10

Louis Roederer Champagne Brut Premier NV 13 £20+

Piper-Heidsieck Champagne Vintage 1990 10 £20+

Pommery Brut Royal Champagne NV 12 £20+

Seaview Blanc de Blancs 1996 13 £7–10
Fails to compete with Cava
Selected stores

Sélection XXI, Champagne, Nicolas Feuillatte NV 13 £13–20

SAINSBURY

Banrock Station Sparkling Shiraz NV (Australia) 16.5 £7–10
Staggeringly toothsome and rich. Selected stores.

Blanc de Noirs Champagne NV, Sainsbury's 16 £10–13
Still on form as one of the UK's classiest, richest, most impressive own-label supermarket Champagnes

Canard-Duchêne Champagne Brut NV 14.5 £13–20
Dry, some elegance.

Cava Brut NV, Sainsbury's (Spain) 16.5 £5.00
Still a flagship sparkling wine: crisp, clean, fresh, classic. Better than hundreds of Champagnes.

Cava NV, Sainsbury's (Spain) (1.5 litres) 16 £5.00
A superbly classy and classically crisp bubbly which is in a wonderfully festive big bottle (magnum) with, unfortunately, a very naff label which would make Santa puke. Selected stores. Price band indicates the 75cl equivalent

Cava Rosado Brut, Sainsbury's (Spain) 15 £5.00

Champagne Blanc de Blancs 1997, Sainsbury's 13 £13–20
It says it's 'rich and elegant' on the label. I get the rich. I don't get the elegance.

Champagne Boizel Chardonnay NV (France) 16 £13–20
Two stores. Wonderfully elegant, classic richness, subtle yet substantial, with a finish of baked apple.

Champagne Charles Heidsieck Mis en Cave 1995 13 £20+

Champagne Demi Sec NV, Sainsbury's 14 £10–13

Champagne Duval-Leroy 1995 13 £13–20
Not twenty quid! Selected stores!

Champagne E. Barnaut Blanc de Nours NV (France) 15.5 £13–20
Two stores again. Very fruity with hints of strawberry. Very elegant for all that

Champagne Franck Bonville Blanc de Blancs NV (France) 17.5 £13–20
Two stores only (the usual poncy pair). This example of great Champagne is toasty, rich yet dry with a huge lingering flavour of croissant and very, very subtle blackcurrant jam. (For all that, it's dry.)

Champagne Lanson Black Label Brut NV 13.5 £13–20

Champagne Laurent-Perrier NV 13.5 £20+

Champagne Louis Roederer NV 13 £20+

Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte Premier Cru NV 14 £13–20

Champagne Palmer 1982 (France) 16 £13–20
Two stores. Very sprightly and fresh for an eighteen year old and it well justifies its £20 price tag offering as it does the maturity which age brings: a roasted nuttiness of huge elegance and style.

Champagne Perrier-Jouet Belle Epoque 1995 (France) 13 £20+
Absurd amount of money for a reasonably drinkable Champagne. Limited distribution.

Champagne Perrier-Jouet NV 14 £20+

Champagne Pommery Brut Royal NV 13 £20+

Champagne Premier Cru Extra Dry NV, Sainsbury's 14 £13–20
Has some cool class to it.

Chardonnay Brut, Méthode Traditionelle, Sainsbury's (France) 15 £5–7

Freixenet Cava Rosada NV 13.5 £5–7

Grand Cru Millennium Champagne 1995, Sainsbury's 13 £13–20

Green Gold Brut Organic Vin Mousseux NV (France) 11.5 £5–7
Slightly fat finish mars the crispness of the wine, compared with Cava. Expensive. Selected stores.

Hardys Nottage Hill Chardonnay Brut 1998 15 £5–7

Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay/Pinot Noir Brut NV 14 £5–7

Inanda Brut NV (South Africa) 15.5 £5.00

Terrific bubbly here. Has fruit yet crispness. Selected stores.

Krug Grande Cuvée NV 10 £20+
Obscenely overpriced and unexciting

Millennium Vintage Cava 1997, Sainsbury's (Spain) 12 £5–7

Mumm Champagne Brut NV 13 £19–20

Piper-Heidsieck Brut NV 15 £13–20

Trudon Champagne Festigny Cuvée Sélection NV (France) 18 £19–20
Available at two stores Which two? Cromwell Road in London and Richmond in Surrey. How tragic! This is a magnificent, slightly quirky Champagne, 100% Pinot Meunier (no Chardonnay or Pinot Noir) and it has a lovely crisp nuttiness with a fantastic undertone of subtle wild raspberry. A massive bargain.

Vin Mousseux Brut, Sainsbury's (France) 13 £5.00

SOMERFIELD

Asti Spumante NV, Somerfield 11 £5–7

Australian Quality Sparkling NV, Somerfield 14 £5–7

Australian Sparkling Chardonnay 1995, Somerfield 14 £7–10

Bollinger Spécial Cuvée NV 13 £20+
Nothing special – except £26 required to buy it.

Cava Brut NV, Somerfield 15 £5.00
Nutty, elegant, dry. More accomplished than many Champagnes.

Cava Rosado NV, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Delicious crisp fruit with a hint of strawberry. A superb bubbly for the money.

Crémant de Bourgogne 1998, Somerfield 14 £7–10
As cool and crisp as they come

De Vauzelle Champagne NV 14 £10–13
OK.

Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut NV 14 £5–7
Dry and crisp.

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand) 14 £7–10

Martini Asti Spumante NV 11 £5–7
Very sweet indeed.

Moscato Fizz, Somerfield 13 £2.50
Torrid weather thirst quencher.

Mumm Cuvée Napa Brut NV (California) 16 £7–10

So much better than the French product, this elegant bubbly.

Nicolas Feuillatte Champagne Brut NV 14 £13–20
Good basic crispness and nuttiness. Selected stores

Prince William Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV, Somerfield 13 £13–20

Prince William Blanc de Noirs Champagne NV, Somerfield 13.5 £10–13

Prince William Champagne Premier Cru NV, Somerfield 14 £13–20
Has some elegance to justify that Premier Cru tag

Prince William Champagne Rosé NV, Somerfield 12 £13–20

South African Sparkling Sauvignon, Somerfield 16 £5.00
Gorgeous, just gorgeous! Loads of personality and flavour – yet it's stylish withal.

Vintage Cava 1997, Somerfield 16 £5–7
Classic bubbly of great finesse and class. Prefer it to Krug

SPAR

Asti Spumante NV, Spar 13 £5.00
Sweet old-fashioned thing for sweet old fashioned thungs

Cava Brut NV, Spar 13 £5.00
Rather an inconclusive finish.

Marques de Prevel Champagne NV, Spar 12 £13–20
Sharp and tangy and expensive.

TESCO

Australian Sparkling Wine NV, Tesco 13 £5.00

Banrock Station Sparkling Shiraz NV (Australia) 16.5 £7–10
Staggeringly toothsome and rich. Selected stores.

Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV, Tesco 13 £13–20
Delicious lemon style. Most stores.

Blanc de Noirs Champagne NV, Tesco 17 £10–13
Interesting, classic. Most stores

Cava NV, Tesco 13 £5.00

Champagne Perrier-Jouët Belle Epoque 1995 (France) 13 £20+
Absurd amount of money for a reasonably drinkable Champagne. Limited distribution.

Cockatoo Ridge Black Sparkling Red NV 16.5 £7.10
Superb chocolatey fruit with raisins and ripe fruits, great tannins and a spicy finish. A wonderful wine for game dishes. Selected stores

Demi Sec Cava NV, Tesco 13 £5.00

Very sweet and ripe but anyone who has received the telegram from Betty at Buck House will love it.

Demi-Sec Champagne NV, Tesco 13.5 £10–13
Too sweet for me. Selected stores.

Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay/ Pinot Noir Sparkling NV 14 £5–7

Heidsieck Dry Monopole Blue Top Champagne NV 13 £13–20
I prefer Tesco's Cava to this sourly fruity, dry bubbly.

Hungarian Sparkling Chardonnay NV, Tesco 13.5 £5.00

Jacob's Creek Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Australia) 15 £5–7

Laurent-Perrier Cuvée Rosé Brut NV 11 £20+

Laurent-Perrier Vintage 1990 13 £20+

Les Etoiles Organic Sparkling Wine NV 12 £5–7

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand) 14 £7–10

Lindauer Brut Rosé NV (New Zealand) 14 £7–10
Hint of raspberry to some very dry fruit.

Lindauer Special Reserve NV (New Zealand) 16 £7–10
Very elegant and classically cut. Very smart on the taste buds.

Organic Champagne Jose Ardinat NV 13.5 £13–20

Premier Cru Champagne NV, Tesco 15 £10–13
Yes, yes. Most stores.

Rosé Cava NV, Tesco 13.5 £5.00

Rosé Champagne Brut NV, Tesco 14 £13–20

South African Sparkling Sauvignon 2000, Tesco 12 £5.00
Very ripe and fleshy.

Taittinger Champagne Brut NV 12 £20+

Vintage Cava 1997, Tesco 15 £5–7
Crisp, clean, classic dryness. An elegant bubbly. One of Tesco's 'Finest' range.

Vintage Champagne 1995, Tesco 14.5 £13–20
Rather good, rather good – has some lean elegance to it. One of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range. Selected stores.

WAITROSE

Alexandre Bonnet Brut Rosé NV (France) 14 £13–20

Banrock Station Sparkling Shiraz NV (Australia) 16.5 £7–10
Staggeringly toothsome and rich.

Brut Vintage 1996, Waitrose 14 £13–20

Stylish edge to the finish.

Cava Brut NV, Waitrose (Spain) 15 £5.00
Exquisite dry fruit.

Champagne Blanc de Blancs NV, Waitrose (France) 14 £13–20
Very elegant stuff.

Champagne Blanc de Noirs NV, Waitrose (France) 15 £10–13

Champagne Blanc de Noirs NV, Waitrose (France) 16 £10–13
Delicious hints of wild strawberry to the dry dry fruit.

Champagne Bredon Brut NV 12 £7–10

Champagne Brut NV, Waitrose 14 £13–20

Champagne Fleury Brut 1993 (France) 14 £20+

Champagne Fleury Brut NV 13 £13–20
Not remotely in the class of previous blends.

Champagne Lanson Noble Cuvée 1988 12 £20+
Absurd fruit. Absurd price.

Champagne Moet et Chandon Brut Imperial Vintage 1992 13.5 £20+
Toasty and fine. £29? Not by a long chalk.

Chandon Argentina Brut Fresco NV 13.5 £7–10

Chandon Australia Brut NV 13.5 £7–10
Touch soupy as it finishes.

Chapel Hill Pinot Noir/Chardonnay NV 15 £5.00

Chapel Hill Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Hungary) 12 £3.00

Charles Heidsieck Champagne Blanc de Blancs 1982 20 £20+
Perfect champagne. As good as it is possible for Chardonnay to get with bubbles. It is perfectly mature, rich and complex but finally dry and delicate. It is so elegant it defines what Champagne is. Only from Waitrose Direct.

Charles Heidsieck Réserve Mise en Cave 1996 (France) 16 £20+
Compelling dryness and delicacy. A bubbly to make the heart sing. To be served to old soldiers on their deathbeds for a reward for all those wounds.

Clairette de Die Jadissane NV (organic) 11 £5–7
Sweet thing for immature drinkers

Crémant de Bourgogne Rosé NV (France) 14 £7–10

Cuvée Royale Blanquette de Limoux NV 13.5 £5–7
Dry with a stale lemon edge.

Deutz Marlborough Cuvée NV — 13 — £10–13

Duc de Marre Spécial Cuvée Champagne Brut Non Vintage — 13.5 — £13–20

Jacob's Creek Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Australia) — 15 — £5–7

Lanson Vintage Gold Label 1994 — 13 — £20+
Over-priced.

Le Mesnil Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Champagne Brut Non Vintage — 13 — £13–20

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand) — 14 — £7–10

Moët et Chandon L-D 1992 (France) — 14 — £20+
Difficult to swallow, £28, but easy to similarly deal with the wine. It is delicious.

Saumur Brut NV, Waitrose — 16 — £5–7
More strikingly clean and classically dry than many a much-vaunted Champagne.

Seaview Brut NV (Australia) — 14 — £5–7

Seaview Brut Rosé NV (Australia) — 13.5 — £5–7

Sparkling Burgundy NV (France) — 12 — £7–10

Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs 1990 — 13 — £20+

PART 3

A TO Z OF RETAILERS

ASDA

Every retailer in this book was asked the same question for this 2002 edition. 'What is,' I asked, 'in your opinion the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?'

Asda replied:

'Providing good quality wines, at great Asda value, from easy drinking affordable Australian Chardonnay to premium classic French Bordeaux. Particularly focusing on Australia, South America and France – primary customer-favourite wine selections.'

Asda is not only the first retailer in this book because of the arrangement of the English alphabet, it is also the number one retailer in this book because of the speed of its response to this question.

Asda's view of its range is as easy to swallow as many of its wines. This response hardly does justice to the unusual attention Asda pays to its customers' needs and how well they service them. Its newly revamped, staffed, and energised wine department is hugely committed to value for money. Many stuffy and out of-touch wine critics find Asda's principles of good value drinkability intolerable, but for me this approach is music to my ears.

Who needs stuffy wine critics when you have a branch of Asda in the locality? Who needs stuffy wine critics when you have an innovative supermarket chain like this one? And not just in wine. In the recent past it has had the chutzpah to offer jewellery in its stores for the first time. It launched a scheme allowing grandparents time off to spend with their new grandchildren, and leave to help with childminding. It erected a motorway sign, similar to those for heritage sites, near Junction 3 of the M66, on the basis that the Bury store should qualify as a tourist attraction since it gets more than 250,000 visitors a year. It introduced a scheme backed by the Campaign for Racial Equality, called Talent Race, to increase recruitment from ethnic minorities. It announced plans to open garden centres in 90 of its branches' car parks. It launched a 'Get involved with Kids' programme

allowing staff a total of 60,000 days out, to work on community projects between now and 2003.

Disasters? Only one. The retailer's Brighton Marina store was forced to close after it was partially demolished by a 4,000 tonne landslide. However, this blip has been offset by ascent in popularity. The *Grocer* trade magazine reported that sales at the three Asda Wal Mart superstores were in the top five for Wal-Mart worldwide. Small wonder that there were reports of Asda creating 10,000 new jobs. In June 2001, it was widely reported that Asda had 'restarted the price war'. The company announced price cuts, worth £100 million, over a four-month period.

However, and most bizarrely, who would have reckoned that this emphasis on value for money at Asda and its slick trading practices would have inspired the legendary alfresco salesmen of North Africa? As one report had it: 'Street traders in Tunisia, in towns like Monastir, can be heard shouting at potential customers: "I give you good price. I give you Asda price".'

Not much I can add after that sort of encomium.

Asda Stores Limited
Asda House
Great Wilson Street
Leeds
LS11 5AD

Tel 0500 100055 Customer Service Line
Fax 0113 241 8666
www.asda.co.uk

ARGENTINIAN RED

Argentinian Bonarda 1999, Asda	14.5	£3.00
Argentinian Syrah 1999, Asda	16	£5.00
Casa Latina Shiraz Tempranillo 1999	16	£5.00
Far Flung El Montero Shiraz Reserva 2000	14	£5-7
Far Flung Malbec 2000	15	£5.00
La Nature Organic Barbera 2000	14	£5.00
Nieto Senetiner Bonarda Reserva 2000	15	£5-7
Nieto Senetiner Merlot Reserve 2000	14	£5-7
Santa Julia Tempranillo Reserva 1999	16.5	£5-7

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Argentinian White NV, Asda 14 £3.50

Argento Chardonnay 2000 17 £5.00

Candela Viognier 2000 15 £5–7

Far Flung Viognier 2000 16.5 £5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Andrew Peace Cabernet Merlot 1999 15 £5–7

Fox River Pinot Noir 1998 13 £5–7

Houghtons Shiraz 1998 15 £5–7

La Nature Organic Shiraz Cabernet 1999 13.5 £5.00

Maglieri Shiraz 1998 15.5 £7–10

Normans Estates Lone Gum Cabernet Merlot 2000 12 £5.00

Normans Estates Pinot Noir 1999 10 £5–7

Normans Estates Yarra Valley Cabernet 1998 14 £7–10

Secession Xanadu Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 15 £5–7

Temple Bruer Shiraz/Malbec 1998 16.5 £5–7

The Potts Family Bleasdale Malbec 2000 13 £5–7

Vine Vale Grenache 1998 (Peter Lehmann) 15 £5–7

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 14 £7–10

Wyndham Estate Bin 444 Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15 £5–7

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Cranswick Nine Pines Vineyard Marsanne 1998 16.5 £5.00

Karalta White 1999, Asda 14 £3.50

La Nature Organic Chardonnay Sauvignon 2000 14.5 £5.00

Peter Lehmann Eden Valley Riesling 1999 16.5 £5–7

Rosemount GTR 2001 18.5 £5–7

Rosemount 'Hill of Gold' Chardonnay, Mudgee 1999 14 £7–10

Rymill Sauvignon Blanc 1999 15.5 £5–7

Wyndham Estate Bin 222 Chardonnay 1999 16 £5–7

Xanadu Secession Sémillon Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5–7

CHILEAN RED

35 South Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 17 £5.00

Big Chilean Cabernet 2000 (1.5 litres) 15 £3.50

Casas del Bosque Merlot 1999 14 £5–7

Castillo de Molina Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15.5 £5–7

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, Rapel Valley 1999 16.5 £8.00

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 1999 16.5 £5.00

Terra Mater Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 13 £3.00

Terra Mater Carmenère Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 14 £5.00

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £5.00

Valdivieso Single Vineyard Merlot 1998 16.5 £7–10

CHILEAN WHITE

Casas del Bosque Sauvignon Blanc 1999 15 £5–7

Chardonnay Reserve Cono Sur 1999 15.5 £5–7

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Asda 16 £5.00

Undurraga Gewürztraminer 2000 16 £5.00

Valdivieso Malbec Rosé 2000 16.5 £5.00

FRENCH RED

Beaune Premier Cru Antoine de Peyrache 1998 10 £10–13

Buzet Cuvée 44 1997 15 £5.00

California Old Vine Estates Carignan NV 13.5 £5.00

Château Biston Brillette Moulis 1997 16.5 £7–10

Château Clauzet St-Estèphe 1997 11 £10–13

Château 'D' de Dassault St-Emilion 1998 16 £10–13

Château d'Arsac Margaux 1999 15 £10–13

Château du Gaby Canon-Fronsac 1998 13.5 £7–10

Château Gigault Premières Côtes de Blaye 1998 16.5 £7–10

Château Haut Canteloupe Médoc 1998 16.5 £7–10

Château La Chene de Margot Premières Côtes de Blaye 1998 15.5 £5–7

Château Lamarzelle St-Emilion Grand Cru 1997 14.5 £13–20

Château Lynch-Moussas Pauillac 1997 15 £13–20

Château Maucaillou Moulis 1997 15 £13–20

Château Sociando Mallet Haut-Médoc 1997	12	£20+
Château Vieux Gabiran 1999 (organic)	14	£5.00
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Giraud 1998	13.5	£10–13
Cornas 1998	14	£7–10
Côte de Beaune-Villages Michel Pont 1998	11	£5–7
Côtes du Rhône Cuvée Spéciale 2000, Asda	15.5	£3.50
Côtes du Rhône Jean Berteau 1999	15.5	£5.00
Crozes-Hermitage Les Haut de Pavières 1999	16	£5–7
Domaine de Montplaisir Cabernet Franc VdP d'Oc 2000	16	£5.00
French Connection Reserve Merlot 2000	15	£5.00
Gigondas Domaine St Damien 1999	14.5	£7–10
Hermitage 1998	14	£10–13
J. Frelin Organic Côtes du Rhône NV	14	£5.00
La Montagne Fitou Réserve 1999	15	£5.00
La Vieille Ferme, Côtes du Ventoux 1999	16	£5.00
Les Crouzels Fitou 1999	16	£7–10
Les Fiefs de La Grange St-Julien 1998	14	£13–20
Nuits-St-Georges 1988	10	£13–20
Organic Claret Château Vieux Georget, Bordeaux 1998	15.5	£5–7
Pommard Jean-Marc Bouley 1998	14.5	£13–20
Rasteau Côtes du Rhône-Villages Domaine de Vallambreuse 2000	16	£5.00
Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000	14.5	£4.50
Tramontane Red VdP de l'Aude 1999, Asda	16	£3.50
Vacqueyras Domaine de l'Oiselet 1999	14.5	£5–7
Volnay Antoine de Peyrache 1998	10	£7–10

FRENCH WHITE

Chablis Premier Cru Fourchame 1999	15	£10–13
Chardonnay, Jardin de la France 1999	14	£3.50
Château Perruchot Meursault 1998	12	£13–20
Chenin Blanc Loire 1999, Asda	14	£3.50
French Connection Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000	14.5	£5.00
L'Enclos Domeque Dry Muscat VdP d'Oc 2000	14	£5.00

Louis Maynard Anjou Blanc NV — 13.5 — £3.50

Louis Maynard Sauvignon Blanc Ackerman NV — 14.5 — £3.99

Mâcon-Villages La Colombier 2000, Asda — 14 — £5.00

Pouilly-Fuissé Antoine de Peyrache 1999 — 13 — £7–10

Pouilly-Fumé Les Cornets 1999 — 14 — £7–10

Sancerre Les Noble Villages Caves de Sancerre 2000 — 13 — £5–7

Sancerre Vieilles Vignes Patient Collat 1999 — 14.5 — £7–10

Tramontane Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Asda — 14.5 — £5.00

Vouvray Denis Marchais 1999 — 10 — £5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Grans Fassian Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett Altarchen 1999 — 13.5 — £5–7

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Badger Hill Hungarian Sauvignon 1999 — 14 — £3.50

Hungarian Medium Chardonnay 1999, Asda — 12 — £3.50

ITALIAN RED

Barolo Veglio Angelo 1996 — 14 — £7–10

Big Mamma's Italian Red NV — 14 — £5.00

Cantele Zinfandel Salento 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Chianti 1999, Asda — 12 — £3.50

Chianti Classico Riserva 1997, Asda — 14 — £5–7

Puccini Chianti Reserva 1997 — 14 — £5.00

Ruvello Cabernet Sauvignon Passito 1998 — 17 — £7–10

Solara Organic Rosso, Nero d'Avola 2000 — 13 — £3.50

Villa Cerna Chianti Classico 1998 — 15 — £5–7

ITALIAN WHITE

Cantele Chardonnay Salento 2000 — 14 — £3.00

Lambrusco Bianco NV, Asda — 13.5 — £2.50

Lambrusco Rosato NV, Asda — 13 — £2.50

Solara Organic White Inzolia 2000 — 13 — £3.50

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Babich Semillon Chardonnay 2000 — 15 — £5–7

Corbans Sauvignon Blanc 1999	13.5	£5–7
Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc 1999	14	£5–7
Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc 1999	13	£5–7

PORTUGUESE WHITE

Vale de Rosas Fernao Pires 1999	15	£5.00
Vinho Verde 1999, Asda	10	£3.50

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Beyerskloof Pinotage, Stellenbosch 2000	15.5	£5.00
Carnby Liggle 2000	12	£5.00
Dumisani Ruby Cabernet/Merlot 1999	13.5	£5.00
Graham Beck Coastal Shiraz 1999	16.5	£5–7
Kumala Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000	16	£5.00
Landskroon Merlot Reserve 1999	16	£5–7
Linton Park Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	13.5	£10–13
Middelvlei Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	15.5	£5–7
Neil Ellis Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	16.5	£7.10
Pinotage Reserve 1999, Asda	14	£5.00
Porcupine Ridge Syrah 1999	16	£5–7
Railroad Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999	15	£5.00
Savanha Merlot 1999	14	£5–7
South African Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Asda	14	£5.00
South African Pinotage 1999, Asda	13.5	£5.00
Spier Unexpected Pleasures Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	16	£5.00
Van Loveren Cabernet Shiraz 1999	13	£5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Big South African Chardonnay 2000 (1.5 litres)	14.5	£3.50
Interlude Blanc, Verdun Estate 1999	13	£5–7
Kumala Chenin Chardonnay 2000	15	£5.00
Porcupine Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£5.00
Speir Chenin Blanc	15	£5.00
Speir Sauvignon Blanc 2000	15.5	£5.00
Van Loveren Blanc de Noirs 2000	14.5	£5.00

SPANISH RED

Conde de Navasques 1997	13.5	£5.00
Don Darias Tinto NV	13.5	£3.50

Mont Marcal Crianza 1997 — 14 — £3.50

Torres Coronas Tempranillo 1999 — 16 — £5–7

SPANISH WHITE

Baron de Ley Rioja Blanco 1999 — 13.5 — £5.00

Bodegas Cerrosol Sauvignon Rueda 1998 — 15 — £5.00

Moscatel de Valencia NV, Asda — 16 — £3.50

Spanish Oaked White NV, Asda — 13.5 — £3.50

USA RED

Rosemount 'V' NV — 14 — £5–7

Garnet Point Shiraz Cabernet 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Talus Merlot 1998 — 13 — £5–7

Talus Zinfandel 1998 — 13 — £5–7

USA WHITE

Ca'del Solo Malvasia Bianca, Bonny Doon 1998 — 12 — £7–10

Garnet Point Semillon Chardonnay 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

FORTIFIED

Dow's LBV Port 1995 — 14.5 — £7–10

Fine Ruby Port, Asda — 14 — £5–7

Graham's LBV Port 1994 — 13.5 — £10–13

Manzanilla, Asda — 17 — £5–7

Tawny Port, Asda — 15 — £5–7

Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl — 13.5 — £7–10

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV — 13 — £7–10

SPARKLING

Kirribilly Riesling Brut 1999 — 15 — £7–10

Asti Spumante NV, Asda (Italy) — 12 — £5.00

Bleasdale Sparkling Shiraz 1999 — 16 — £7–10

Cava Brut, Asda (Spain) — 16.5 — £5.00

Cava Medium Dry, Asda (Spain) — 13 — £5.00

Champagne Brut NV, Asda — 12.5 — £10–13

De Bregille Vintage 1995 (France) — 12 — £13–20

Nicolas Feuillatte Blanc de Blancs NV (France) — 13 — £13–20

Rondel Cava NV (Spain) — 14 — £5–7

Stamps Sparkling 1999 (Australia) — 11 — £5–7

Vintage Cava 1996, Asda (Spain) — 15.5 — £5–7

BOOTHS

In answer to the question I asked every retailer for this edition of *Superplonk*, Booths had a simple response. It stayed mum, though I'm quite sure I asked its PR company to pass on my simple needs to this small, northern supermarket chain 'What is,' I asked, 'in your opinion the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?'

My answer would be 'Booths is Booths'. It isn't Tesco or Asda, or The Great Northern Wine Company or Fortnum & Mason. The wine range is broad and well-selected by buyer Sally Holloway, and its style is an amalgam of all the aforementioned retailers

Booths has been busy this year, so I do understand that it didn't have time for tomfool questions Finally, the company's 25th store was opened, in Kirby Lonsdale, and work also began on another new store in Settle in February. Edwin Booth, chairman, said the company 'was keen to expand further in Yorkshire' and 'further north' with Penrith identified as another target area The company also reported that sales growth was running at 7.5%, which is a more than healthy trading performance, being well above average

Booths will never be large enough to challenge the big players, but it doesn't try to Its presence in a local community gives it all the kudos, and the profits, it needs.

In a Britain where we bemoan the loss of the small family business here is one doing well, prospering, and offering a solid range of wines at all price levels. If you live in a town where there's a Booths store, count yourself lucky.

Booths Supermarkets
4–6 Fishergate
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 3LJ

Tel 01772 251701
Fax 01772 204316
www.booths-supermarkets.co.uk

ARGENTINIAN RED

El Montonero Bonarda Barbera 1999 — 15.5 — £5.00

Finca el Retiro Malbec, Mendoza 2000 — 16.5 — £5–7

Libertad Malbec Bonarda 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

Mission Peak Red NV — 13.5 — £3.50

Terrazas Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 14.5 — £5–7

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Libertad Chenin Sauvignon 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Terrazas Alto Chardonnay 2000 — 14.5 — £5–7

AUSTRALIAN RED

Australian Red Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Booths — 14 — £5.00

Brown Brothers Tarrango 2000 — 13 — £5.00

CV Capel Vale Shiraz — 14.5 — £7–10

d'Arenberg d'Arrys Original Shiraz/Grenache 1998 — 15 — £7–10

Ironstone Shiraz Grenache 1998 — 15.5 — £5–7

Knappstein Cabernet Franc 1998 — 15 — £7–10

Marktree Premium Red 1999 — 15 — £5.00

Oxford Landing Merlot 1999 — 14 — £5–7

Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 — 15 — £10–13

Rosemount Estate Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 14 — £5–7

The Seven Surveys Peter Lehmann 1998 — 16 — £5–7

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Capel Vale CV Unwooded Chardonnay 1999 — 14.5 — £7–10

Capel Vale Verdelho 1999 — 16 — £7–10

Château Tahbilk Marsanne 1998 — 12 — £5–7

Cranswick Botrytis Semillon 1996 (half bottle) — 15 — £10–13

d'Arenberg The Olive Grove Chardonnay, McLaren Vale 2000 — 16.5 — £5–7

Deakin Estate Chardonnay 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Ironstone Semillon Chardonnay 1999 — 16 — £5–7

Marktree White SE Australia 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Ninth Island Chardonnay 2000	14	£7–10
Oxford Landing Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5.00
Oxford Landing Viognier 2000	16	£5–7
Penfolds Bin 21 Rawson's Retreat Semillon/Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00
Shaw & Smith Sauvignon Blanc 1998	15	£7–10

BULGARIAN RED

Boyar Cabernet Merlot 1998	12.5	£3.50

CHILEAN RED

Apaltagua Carmenère 2000	15.5	£5–7
Carmen Grande Vidure Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	16.5	£7–10
Cono Sur Pinot Noir 2000	16	£5.00
Sierra Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	13.5	£5.00
Subsol Cabernet Malbec 1999	15	£5.00

CHILEAN WHITE

Casablanca Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 1999	16.5	£5–7
Isla Negra Chardonnay 1999	15.5	£5–7
Sierra Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13.5	£5.00
Subsol Chardonnay Sauvignon 2000	14	£5.00
Subsol Chardonnay Sauvignon Vistamar 1999	13	£5.00
Tocornal White NV	13.5	£5.00

FRENCH RED

Bergerac Rouge NV, Booths	13	£3.50
Bourgogne Rouge Joillot 1999	13	£5–7
Cahors 1999	15	£5.00
Château Cluzan Bordeaux 1999	15.5	£5.00
Château Ducla, Bordeaux 1997	15	£5–7
Château l'Euzière Pic St Loup 1998	16.5	£7–10
Château Mayne-Vieil, Fronsac 1998	16	£5–7
Château Pierrail Bordeaux Supérieur 1998	15.5	£5–7
Chaume Arnaud Domaine Côtes du Rhône-Villages 1998 (organic)	17	£7–10

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Georges Darriaud 1998 13.5 £5–7

Domaine de la Bastide VdP Hautrive 1999 8 £3.50

Domaine de Petit Roubie Syrah VdP d'Oc NV (organic) 15.5 £5.00

Domaine Les Yeuses La Soure VdP d'Oc 1999 14 £5.00

Faugères Gilbert Alquier 1998 15.5 £7–10

Fitou Madame Parmentier 1998 13.5 £3.00

Gigondas Domaine Paillere et Pied 1998 16 £7–10

Honoré de Berticot Merlot Côtes de Duras NV 13.5 £5.00

La Passion Rouge VdP de Vaucluse 2000 14 £3.50

La Réserve du Reverend Corbières 1999 13.5 £5.00

Marcillac 1997 15 £5.00

Morgon Côte du Py 1998 13 £5–7

Oak Aged Claret Bordeaux Supérieur NV, Booths 14 £5.00

Old Git Grenache Syrah 1999 15.5 £5.00

Pernands-Vergelesses Domaine Rossignol Cornu 1998 14 £7–10

Vin Rouge NV, Booths 11 £3.50

FRENCH WHITE

Bergerac Blanc NV, Booths 14 £3.50

Bourgogne Chardonnay Domaine Joseph Matrot 1999 12 £9–7

Chablis Domaine de l'Eglantière 1999 12 £7–10

Château Crabitan Bellevue St-Croix-du-Mont 1996 16.5 £5–7

Château Lamothe Vincent, Bordeaux 2000 14 £5.00

Château Petit Roubie, Picpoul du Pinet 2000 (organic) 15.5 £5.00

Château Turcaud Entre-Deux-Mers 2000 13 £5.00

Clos de Monéstier Bergerac Blanc 2000 12 £5.00

Clos de Monéstier Bergerac Rosé 2000 14 £5.00

Côtes du Rhône Domaine Chaume Arnaud 1999 15 £7–10

Domaine de Pellehaut Côtes de Gascogne 2000 14 £5.00

Gewürztraminer d'Alsace Turckheim 2000 16 £5–7

James Herrick Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 1999 — 16 — £5.00

La Passion Blanc VdP de Vaucluse 2000 — 14 — £3.50

Louis Chatel Sur Lie VdP d'Oc 2000 — 13.5 — £3.50

Muscadet sur Lie La Roche Renard 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Pouilly-Fumé Les Cornets, Cailbourdin 2000 — 13.5 — £7–10

Riesling d'Alsace Aime Stentz 1999 — 14.5 — £5–7

St-Véran Domaine des Deux Roches 1999 — 16 — £5–7

Vermentino Les Yeuses VdP d'Oc 2000 — 15 — £3.50

Vin Blanc NV, Booths — 12 — £3.50

GERMAN WHITE

Dr 'L' Riesling, Loosen Mosel 1999 — 14 — £5–7

Fire Mountain Riesling 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Gau-Bickelheimer Kurfurstenstuck Auslese 1998 — 13 — £5.00

Liebfraumilch NV, Booths — 13 — £3.50

Piesporter Michelsberg NV, Booths — 12 — £5.00

Riesling Louis Guntrum 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Villa Wolf Pinot Gris, Loosen Pfalz 1999 — 16 — £5–7

GREEK RED

Vin de Crete Kourtaki 1999 — 12 — £5.00

GREEK WHITE

Kretikos Vin de Crete Blanc Boutari 1999 — 13 — £5.00

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Chapel Hill Oaked Chardonnay, Balaton Boglar NV — 13.5 — £3.50

Tokaji Harslevelu Castle Island 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

ITALIAN RED

A Mano Primitivo Puglia 2000 — 15.5 — £5–7

Amarone Classico Brigaldara 1996 — 16.5 — £17–20

Archidamo Pervini Primitivo di Manduria 1997 — 15.5 — £5–7

Barocco Rosso del Salento 1999 — 11 — £3.50

Chianti Leonardo 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Col di Sasso Toscana 1998 — 14 — £5.00

I Promessa Sangiovese Pugha 1999	13.5	£5.00
La Piazza Rosso 1999 (Sicily)	13.5	£3.50
Valpolicella Classico Superiore, Viviani 1997	15	£7–10
Valpolicella Classico, Viviani 1999	13	£5–7
Veneto Salice Salento Vallone 1998	15	£5.00
Vigna Flaminio, Brindisi Rosso 1997	14	£5–7

ITALIAN WHITE

La Piazza Bianco 2000 (Sicily)	14	£3.50
Le Rime Pinot Grigio/ Chardonnay 2000	13	£5.00
Sentito Cortese DOC Oltrepo Pavese 1999	14	£5.00
Soave Classico Pra 2000	13.5	£5–7
Viña Ruspo Rosado Capezzana 2000	14	£5–7

LEBANESE RED

Hochar Red 1998	13.5	£5–7

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Dashwood Sauvignon Blanc 2000	17	£7–10
Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16.5	£7–10

PORTUGUESE RED

Alianca Foral Douro Reserva 1997	15.5	£5.00
Alta Mesa Red 1999	12	£3.50
Bela Fonte Baga, Beiras 1999	14	£5.00
Dão Dom Ferraz 1999	15	£5.00
Portada Red Estremadura 1999	13.5	£5.00
Quinta da Villa Freire Douro 1996	15	£5–7
Quinta de la Rosa 1998	15.5	£5–7

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000	14	£5.00
Helderberg Shiraz 1999	15	£5.00
Spice Route Andrew's Hope Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1999	16.5	£5–7
Welmoed Merlot 1999	16	£5–7

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Altus Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13.5	£5.00
Jordan Chardonnay 1999	16	£7–10
Landema Falls Colombard Chardonnay NV	15	£3.50
Welmoed Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13.5	£5.00

SPANISH RED

Amezola de la Mora Rioja Crianza 1997	12.5	£7–10
Artadi Viñas de Gain Crianza, Rioja 1997	13.5	£7–10
Casa de la Viña Valdepeñas 2000	15	£5.00
Casa Morena, Valdepeñas NV	14	£3.50
Castillo de Almansa Reserva Bodegas Piqueras 1995	13.5	£5.00
Guelbenzu Blue Label Navarra NV	16	£5–7
La Poema Garnacha Vinas Viejas 1999	13	£5.00
Mas Donis Capcanes Taragona 2000	16.5	£3.00
Ochoa Tempranillo Garnacha 1999	15	£5.00
Viña Alarba, Calatayud 2000	13	£3.50
Viña Albali Gran Reserva 1993	15	£5–7
Viña Borgia Campo de Borja 1999	13	£5.00

SPANISH WHITE

Castillo de Maluenda Blanco 2000	15	£3.50
Castillo de Maluenda Rosado 2000	13.5	£3.50
Estrella, Moscatel de Valencia NV	16	£5.00
Palacio de Bornos Rueda 2000	15	£5.00
Santa Lucia Viura, Vino de la Tierra Manchuela 1999	14	£3.50
Viña Albali Rosado 2000	13.5	£5.00

USA RED

Stonybrook Merlot 1999	15.5	£5–7
Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	12	£5–7

USA WHITE

Stonybrook Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00

FORTIFIED

Amontillado del Puerto, Lustau	16	£7–10
Banyuls Chapoutier 1997 (50cl)	14	£7–10
Churchills Dry White Port	13	£7–10
Finest Reserve Port, Booths	14.5	£7–10
Fino NV, Booths	14	£5.00
Henriques & Henriques 5 Year Old Madeira NV	13	£10–13

Lustau Old East India Sherry	17	£2–10
Manzanilla Sherry, Booths	15	–£5.00
Medium Amontillado NV, Booths	15.5	–£5.00
Niepoort LBV Port 1996	14	£10–13
Niepoort Ruby Port	14	£7–10

SPARKLING

Brossault Rosé Champagne NV	13	£13–20
Bruno Paillard Champagne NV	15	£13–20
Champagne Baron-Fuenté Brut NV	15	£10–13
Champagne Fleurie NV (organic)	13	£13–20
Champagne Gremillet NV	13.5	£13–20
Chandon Argentina Brut NV	15	£7–10
Chapelle de Cray Brut Rosé 1995 (France)	16	£5–7
Concerto Lambrusco 1998 (Italy)	16	£5–7
Crémant d'Alsace Cuvée Prestige NV	14	£7–10
Deutz NV (New Zealand)	15	£10–13
Hunter's Miru Miru 1998 (New Zealand)	16	£10–13
Palau Brut Cava NV	13	–£5.00
Piper-Heidsieck Brut Champagne NV	15	£13–20
Prosecco Zonin NV (Italy)	16	–£5.00

BUDGENS

In answer to the question I asked every retailer for this edition of *Superplonk*, Christine Sandys, the wine buyer here, was most eloquent.

'What is,' I said, 'in your opinion the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' She replied

'Budgens is essentially a convenience retailer, and as such carries a limited (compared to the major multiples) range of wines, around 300 in our largest stores. We therefore aim to offer a compact, but comprehensive and balanced, range of wines from around the world. Given these parameters I feel that our customers' demand for reliable branded wines from the New World, in particular Australia and California, is well catered for. We also offer a carefully selected yet commercial range of semi-exclusive or less widely available 'soft brands' from other areas of the world such as Spain, Portugal, Eastern Europe and France, and these areas of the range provide the essential Budgens individuality for the more discerning consumer.

Budgens are currently experiencing unprecedented levels of growth within the wine category as people lock onto the value of the offers and the variety within the range. As the customer begins to develop more and more confidence in the range then this should allow for a little more experimentation, optimising the delicate balance between the commercial and the innovative, which is ultimately what we are striving for.

In terms of price, the emphasis has so far been on the £6 and below bracket, and this has become our strength. As a further enhancement to the range, over the next 12 months or so, I intend to introduce a carefully chosen selection in the £6 to £10 price bracket.

All of the above, coupled with our ongoing aggressive promotional activity, should further strengthen Budgens' position as a (progressive!) high street drinks retailer for the foreseeable future.'

My own response to this question would be to comment that it has little style at the moment and its range is only just beginning to mean something Christine, who arrived from the Co-op, has had her feet under the table of the wine buying department for a comparatively short time but she is

beginning to make her mark – as above 'mission statement' makes clear and the following entries demonstrate.

In a trade magazine interview, Ms Sandys said that one of her prime concerns was the number of bottles of wine being spoilt by tainted cork. How about then, Christine, putting in place a wine range composed entirely of plastic-corked wines and screwcapped bottles? This would give Budgens the edge on all other wine retailers and would guarantee that cork taint would never be found in any of its wines. Think of the effect on all those stuffy wine critics. Most of them have never heard of Budgens. (Many believe Budgens is something to be found in a cage pecking on dried cuttlefish) And Budgens badly needs to find an edge. Many of its initiatives have not been as successful as hoped, though it continues to make money.

The Budgens direct home-shopping service was abandoned after 18 months because it had been 'suffocated by bigger brands' in the sector There was, also, the closure of 12 forecourt stores that operated in partnership with petrol company Conoco, only a year after the collaboration was first launched, though the partnership still continues with Total and Q8.

Brighter news came from Budgens' entry into the franchising business. After the opening of its first Local Franchise store in Aylesbury, Bucks, other independent retailers were 'queuing up to join the scheme', it said Under the 'mutually beneficial trading partnership', Budgens supplies fresh and own label goods to the stores, which in return convert to the Budgens fascia The company unveiled its Milton Keynes Local store, the second in the franchise scheme, and reported that it was on target to open 50 in the next two years Latest news was that the scheme had signed up 21 stores belonging to a former Alldays regional development company. These stores will be converted to the new fascia and format and, presumably, trade as Budgens.

All of which inspired the Irish food group, Musgrave, to acquire a large stake in Budgens, buying it from German retail group, Rewe The £89.4 million deal gives Musgrave a 28% stake in Budgens, but it said it would not bid for total control for at least a year unless 'a third party' moved on the company Would anyone launch a takeover bid for Budgens unless they already had a large chunk of it? Doubtful. The latest figures I have showed that pre-tax profits were up by 10.3% to around £9 million on a probable annual turnover of some £500 million.

Slim pickings, then, in supermarketing and further proof that the biggest players in the business have to work on super-thin margins.

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Middlesex
HA4 0JR

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Fax 020 8864 2800
www.budgens.co.uk
info@budgens.com

ARGENTINIAN RED

Argento Malbec 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Etchart Rio de Plata Tempranillo/Malbec 1999 — 14 — £5.00

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 — 14 — £5.00

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Argento Chardonnay 2001 — 13.5 — £5.00

Etchart Rio de Plata Torrontes/ Chardonnay 2000 — 12 — £5.00

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 — 14 — £5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 13.5 — £5–7

Oxford Landing Yalumba Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000 — 14.5 — £5–7

Penfolds Bin 35 Rawsons Retreat Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 — 13 — £5–7

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet 2000 — 13 — £7–10

Wynns Coonawarra Shiraz 1998 — 13 — £5–7

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Hardys Nottage Hill Chardonnay 2000 — 13 — £5–7

Hardys Stamp Grenache Shiraz Rosé 2000 — 11 — £5.00

Jacobs Creek Dry Riesling 2000 — 13 — £5–7

Oxford Landing Chardonnay 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Penfolds Koonunga Hill Chardonnay 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Rosemount Semillon/ Chardonnay 2000 — 15 — £5–7

White Pointer 2000 — 13 — £5.00

CHILEAN RED

Paso del Sol Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Stowells of Chelsea Cabernet Merlot NV — 14.5 — £5.00

Terra Andina Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 — 14 — £7–10

CHILEAN WHITE

Paso del Sol Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Terra Andina Chardonnay 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

ENGLISH WHITE

Three Choirs Phoenix 1999 — 11 — £5.00

FRENCH RED

Chapelle St-Laurent Côtes du Marmandais 1999 — 12 — £5.00

Château St-Louis Corbières 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2000 — 11 — £5.00

Fleurs de France Merlot Syrah Devereux NV — 12 — £3.50

Fortant de France Grenache VdP d'Oc 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Fortant de France Syrah 1999 — 15 — £5.00

French Connection Syrah Grenache 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

La Baume Syrah 1998 — 15 — £5.00

La Nature French Red VdP de l'Herault 2000 — 11 — £5.00

Oaked Côtes du Rhône Prestige Les Faisandines 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Premium Oaked Cabernet Sauvignon/ Syrah VdP d'Oc, Devereux NV — 14 — £3.00

Rhône Valley Red Côtes du Ventoux 2000 — 13.5 — £3.50

FRENCH WHITE

Bordeaux Sauvignon NV, Budgens — 13.5 — £5.00

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV, Budgens — 13.5 — £3.50

Devereux Premium Cuvée Viognier NV — 13.5 — £5.00

Domaine Fouassier Sancerre Les Chasseignes 2000 — 13 — £7–10

French Connection Grenache Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Kiwi Cuvée Chardonnay VdP du Jardin de la France 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Kiwi Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc, VdP du Jardin de la France 2000 — 14 — £5.00

'L' Grande Cuvée VdP d'Oc 1999 — 15.5 — £5–7

La Baume Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Premium Oaked Chardonnay VdP d'Oc, Devereux NV — 14 — £5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Devil's Rock Riesling 2000 — 14 — £5.00

HUNGARIAN RED

Riverview Kekfrancos/ Merlot 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 — 15 — £5.00

ITALIAN RED

Il Padrino Sangiovese 2000 (Sicilia) — 15.5 — £5.00

Trulli Primitivo Salento 1999 — 14.5 — £5.00

Valpolicella NV, Budgens — 12 — £3.50

ITALIAN WHITE

Il Padrino Grecanico/ Chardonnay, Sicily 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

Sartori Pinot Grigio delle Venezie 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Soave Dry NV, Budgens — 12 — £3.50

Trulli Chardonnay del Salento 2000 — 16 — £5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Helderberg Pinotage 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Montana Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000 — 15 — £5–7

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Corban's White Label Müller Thurgau/ Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Corbans Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 13.5 — £5–7

Montana Unoaked Chardonnay 2000 — 16 — £5–7

PORTUGUESE RED

Dão Dom Ferraz 1999	13	£5.00
Segada Portuguese Red 2000	13	£5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Kumala Cinsault Pinotage 2000	13.5	£5.00
Long Mountain Merlot Shiraz 2000	13.5	£5–7

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Cape White NV, Budgens	11	£3.50
Clear Mountain Chenin Blanc NV	13.5	£5.00
Kumala Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00
Long Mountain Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13	£5.00
Stowells of Chelsea Chenin Blanc NV	13	£5.00

SPANISH RED

Berberana Dragon Tempranillo 1999	14	£5.00
Berberana Rioja Tempranillo 1999	13	£5–7
Masia Monistrol Tempranillo Garnacha Penedés 2000	14.5	£5.00
Palacio de la Vega Cabernet Sauvignon/ Tempranillo 1998	13.5	£5–7
Piedemonte Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon, Navarra 1999	13	£5.00
Viña Albali Bataneros Barrel Aged Tempranillo, Valdepenas 1999	14	£5.00
Viña Albali Gran Reserva 1993	13	£5–7
Vuña Sardana Tempranillo, Calatayud 1999	14.5	£5.00

SPANISH WHITE

Blanco, La Nature Organic, La Mancha 2000	13.5	£5.00
Castillo de Liria Moscatel de Valencia NV	15.5	£5.00
Masia Monistrol Chardonnay Macabeo 2000	13	£5.00

USA RED

Garnet Point Shiraz Cabernet 2000	13.5	£3.00
Glen Ellen Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	13	£5–7
Marc Xero Merlot 1999	14	£5.00
Sutter Home Merlot 1998	13	£5–7

USA WHITE

Garnet Point Semillon Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5.00

Marc Xero Chardonnay NV 15 £5.00

SPARKLING

Budgens Brut Champagne NV (France) 12 £10–13

Budgens Rosé Champagne NV (France) 10 £10–13

Chandon Australia Brut NV 13.5 £7–10

Hardys Stamp Sparkling Chardonnay Pinot Noir NV (Australia) 14 £5–7

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand) 13 £6–7

Pol Acker Sparkling Chardonnay NV (France) 10 £5.00

Rosemount V Sparkling Chardonnay NV 14.5 £7–10

CO-OP

Mr Paul Bastard had no excuse for his tardiness. In answer to the question I asked every retailer for this edition of *Superplonk* he stayed silent until two days after the deadline (excusing the delay with the highly plausible tale that the Co-op's e mail service had gone haywire).

The question was: 'What, Paul old sport, in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' He replied:

> *'The backbone of our offer is as broad a sweep as possible of countries, grape varieties and wine styles up to the psychological price point of £3 99. (Much more of the esoteric is available but the Opus Ones, Thelemas, etc. represent the spiritual essence of the range not its essential driver.) The background for our offer combines responsible retailing (ingredients labelling; sound sourcing; a move towards organic viticulture), pragmatic retailing (value for money; a necessary branded presence; deep-cut promotions) and imaginative retailing (working by wine not by supplier, industry initiatives, e.g. Cyprus, Argentina; an enhanced own label premium range; dump bins and wine towers in smaller stores). We are not grinding curmudgeons here; we expend much energy in implementing "the Co-op difference".'*

Well, there's a lot here to set us thinking. Has any other retailer pondered more deeply about its purpose in life? I would only add that the Co-op's strength is the loyalty of its customers to all things Co-Opian, as outlined above, and in particular to the keen Bastard nose for a tasty bargain. Its style is its content. There is nothing flashy about the range. There is nothing flashy about the retailer.

Yet the Co-op has, quite splendidly, become the most adventurous wine retailer on the high street in one important respect: on its own-label bottles it provides, in defiance of European regulations, a full list of ingredients even though most leave no residue in the finished wine. No other retailer goes to these lengths. Now you may say, 'Surely wine is just made from grapes and yeast?' But the French routinely add beet sugar to wines from their less solar-charged climates like Bordeaux and Burgundy. In Australia,

South Africa and such clement places tartaric acid may be thrown in (sugar addition being unnecessary because of sufficient sun and in certain countries, like Australia, prohibited). Ascorbic acid, vitamin C, is used as an antioxidant. Potassium phosphate is also an antioxidant and preservative. To encourage yeast growth, diammonium phosphate may be employed. Enzymes may be used to clarify the juice, prior to fermentation, but they can be added after and the result is a fruitier wine. Lactic bacteria may be also welcomed in, they encourage the secondary fermentation where sharp malic acids are transformed into soft lactic acids. The fining agents used to clear fully fermented wine such as egg white, milk or gelatine obviously are not present in the finished wine, but nevertheless offend vegetarians and vegans; bentonite clay is widely used for white wines and offends no one (except the proteins and the larger bacteria it may snare and cause to be deprived of their environment). Polyvinylpolypyrrolidone sounds a repulsive mouthful but after it has been used to take out tannins it leaves no trace of itself. Sulphur (which occurs spontaneously in low levels in wine in any case) is added as an essential preservative to almost all wine, in very tiny amounts, and I've never tasted a wine without it which hadn't gone sour or oxidised in some way. Is there any Co-op wine where all these things are listed on the back label? Yes, Co-op's English Sparkling Wine (see appropriate listing for rating).

This has been a consolidating period for this large retailer, after the merger of the CRS (The Co-op Retail Society) and CWS (The Co-op Wholesale Society) into one coherent buying group. It got rid of stores surplus to requirements and bought stores in areas where it was not well represented. This resulted in flogging off two of its superstores – one to Tesco and the other to Sainsbury's – and buying eleven Somerfields. It all begins to sound like the summer football transfer market – especially when some of the players fail to find new teams. Indeed, the CWS closed Leigh, Burnley and Leytonstone superstores, in early 2001, after failing to find anyone interested in buying them.

CWS aims, apparently, to concentrate on its market town and small store concepts and offer 400 newly designed outlets by 2002 – at a cost of £200 million. CWS said it was on target to realise the full potential of the merger with CRS by 2002. In October, however, had come the most radical move of all: after 137 years of trading under CWS its members voted to change its name to the Co-operative Group. It quickly appointed two ad agencies to look after its media planning and buying, Starcom Motive and Mediacom North, and gave them a £12 million budget to play with

In spring, the Co-operative Group became the first retailer in the UK to put Braille descriptions on packs of its own label medicines and vitamins. It took two years of development, so it was reported, to find the technology to emboss the cardboard cartons and plastic labels with Braille. Perhaps part of this research was spent in the cellars of the Chapoutier wine company in the Rhône, which has had Braille wine labels for years.

The Co-op also extended its range of Fair Trade goods to include wine In spite of the absence of agreed international criteria about a Fair Trade wine, the retailer teamed up with *Traidcraft*, the UK's largest fair trade organisation The result was the establishment of a programme of help and support for the Los Robles co-operative in Chile's Curicó Valley The Co-op's Fair Trade Carmenère 2000 was available in 1,800 stores at a special price of £3 99 (normal price £4 99). I rate initiatives like this very highly, though it would have helped matters if the retailer had sent samples of the wine, unasked, to leading wine critics. In this regard, the Co-op is still behind its dynamic competitors who never fail to make sure that people like myself are kept up-to-date with new developments and wine samples.

Finally, the Co-operative Group announced its first financial results since the merger of the CWS and CRS. The incorporation of the loss-making CRS did not affect overall profitability, but it did not boost it. The Co-operative Group's trading profit for the year was £130 million, almost the same as the CWS figure for the previous year

Well, you know how it is with marriage. The first few years are always the suckiest. The other thing is that one of the partners always has some growing up to do, but in this case, whether it should be the CRS or CWS is impossible to say.

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ARGENTINIAN RED

Adiseno Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Adiseno Shiraz Reserve 1999 — 16 — £5–7

Adiseno Tempranillo — 15.5 — £5.00

Argentine Malbec 2000, Co-op — 16 — £5.00

Argentine Malbec Bonarda 2000, Co-op — 15.5 — £5.00

Argentine Old Vines Sangiovese 2000, Co-op — 16 — £5.00

Argento Malbec 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Bianchi Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 — 17 — £7–10

Bin 99 Argentine Cabernet Franc Reserve 1999, Co-op — 16 — £5–7

Corte X Syrah Torrontes 2000, Co-op — 13 — £5.00

Elsa Barbera 1999 — 15.5 — £5.00

Graffigna Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignón 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Graffigna Shiraz Reserve 1999 — 15.5 — £5.00

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Lost Pampas Cabernet Malbec 1999, Co-op — 14 — £5.00

Mission Peak Argentine Red NV — 15.5 — £3.50

Valentin Bianchi Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 — 16 — £7–10

Weinert Malbec 1994 — 16 — £7–10

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Balbi Shiraz Rosé 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Bright Brothers Viognier Reserve 1999 — 15 — £5–7

Elsa Sémillon Chardonnay 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

Etchart Rio de Plata Torrontes 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

First Ever Chardonnay 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Lost Pampas Oaked Chardonnay 1999, Co-op — 16 — £5.00

Mission Peak Argentine White NV — 15.5 — £3.50

Y2K Chardonnay, San Juan 1999 — 16 — £5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Andrew Peace Masterpeace Shiraz 2000 — 13 — £5–7

Australian Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Co-op — 13 — £5.00

Australian Grenache 2000, Co-op — 13.5 — £5.00

Australian Merlot 2000, Co-op	14	£5.00
Australian Merlot 2001, Co-op	15.5	£5.00
Brown Brothers Tarrango 1999	13.5	£5–7
Deakin Select Merlot 1999	14	£5–7
E & E Black Pepper Shiraz 1996	16	£20+
Hardys Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 1997	16	£7–10
Jacaranda Hill Shiraz 2000, Co-op	13	£5.00
Leasingham Cabernet Sauvignon/Malbec 1996	16.5	£7–10
Lindemans Cawarra Shiraz/Cabernet 1999	13	£5.00
Little Boomey Cabernet Merlot 2000	15	£5–7
Rosemount Estate Grenache/Shiraz 2000	13	£5–7
Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet 2000	13	£7–10

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Australian Chardonnay 2000, Co-op	13.5	£5.00
Barramundi Semillon/ Chardonnay NV	16	£5.00
Bethany Chardonnay 1998	16	£5–7
Bethany Riesling 2001	16	£5–7
Brown Brothers Late Harvested Orange Muscat & Flora 2000 (half bottle)	10	£5–7
Hardys Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 1998	15	£5–7
Jacaranda Hill Semillon 2000, Co-op	13	£5.00
Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£5.00
Rosemount Estate GTR 2000	15	£5–7
Yellow Tail Chardonnay 2000	14.5	£5.00

BULGARIAN RED

Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Co-op	15	£3.50
Mount Sofia Merlot Pinot Noir NV	14.5	£3.50
Oravinifera Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1996	16	£5.00
Sliven Merlot/Pinot Noir NV	13.5	£3.50

BULGARIAN WHITE

Shumen Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 2000	14.5	£3.50
Shumen Muskat & Ugni Blanc 1999	14	£3.50
Sliven Valley of the Roses Rosé 2000	13.5	£3.50

CHILEAN RED

Antares Merlot 2000 16 £5.00

Casa Lapostolle Merlot Cuvée Alexandre 1997 18 £10–13

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Co-op 15 £5.00

Chilean Fair Trade Carmenère 2000, Co-op 15.5 £5.00

Four Rivers Malbec 1999 14 £5.00

Las Lomas Côt Reserva 1999 15.5 £5–7

Las Lomas Organic Chilean Red 1999 15 £5.00

Long Slim Cabernet Merlot 2000 16 £5.00

Terra Mater Malbec 1999 15.5 £5.00

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £7–10

Valdivieso Cabernet Franc Reserve 1997 17 £7–10

Viña Gracia Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1999 15.5 £5–7

Vinã Gracia Carmenère Reserve Especial 1999 16 £5.00

CHILEAN WHITE

Four Rivers Chardonnay 2000 13.5 £5.00

Long Slim Chardonnay Sémillon 2000 13 £5.00

Santa Carolina Chardonnay 1999 16.5 £5.00

CYPRIOT RED

Island Vines Cyprus Red 2000, Co-op 13 £3.50

Mountain Vines Reserve Cabernet/ Maratheftiko 1999, Co-op 16 £5.00

CYPRIOT WHITE

Island Vines Cyprus White 2000, Co-op 14.5 £3.50

Mountain Vines Sémillon 1998, Co-op 14 £5.00

FRENCH RED

Beaujolais NV, Co-op 12 £5.00

Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau 2000 9 £3.50

Calvet Reserve Red 1998 10 £5–7

Château de l'Hospital Graves 1997 13 £7–10

Château Fourtanet Côtes de Castillon 1997 15 £5–7

Château Laurencon Bordeaux Supérieur 1998 14 £5.00

Château Pierrousselle Bordeaux 1999 14 £5.00

Château Thezannes Corbières 1998 [illegible]

Château Villeranque Haut-Médoc 1997 [illegible]

Chevalière Réserve Grenache Vieilles Vignes 1999 [illegible]

Claret NV, Co-op [illegible]

Corbierès Rouge NV, Co-op [illegible]

Corso Merlot 1999 [illegible]

Domaine Les Combelles Minervois 1998 [illegible]

Fleurie 2000 [illegible]

French Organic Merlot Syrah 2000, Co-op [illegible]

French Organic Red 2000, Co-op [illegible]

Merlot VdP des Portes de Mediterrenée 1999 [illegible]

Nuits-St-Georges 1996 [illegible]

Oak Aged Claret NV, Co-op [illegible]

Rhône Valley Red 1999 [illegible]

Vin de Pays d'Oc Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Co-op [illegible]

Vin de Pays d'Oc Fruity Red NV, Co-op [illegible]

Vin de Pays d'Oc Merlot NV, Co-op [illegible]

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah Mourvèdre NV, Co-op [illegible]

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah NV, Co-op [illegible]

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah/Malbec, Co-op (vegetarian) [illegible]

FRENCH WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 2000 [illegible]

Calvet Reserve White 1999 [illegible]

Chardonnay-Chenin Vegetarian NV, Co-op [illegible]

Château Pierrousselle Entre-Deux-Mers 2000 [illegible]

Chevalière Réserve Chardonnay 1999 [illegible]

French Organic Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Co-op [illegible]

French Organic White 2000, Co-op [illegible]

James Herrick Chardonnay 1999 [illegible]

Monbazillac Domaine du Haut-Rauly 1998 (half bottle) [illegible]

Montagny Premier Cru 1998 [illegible]

Orchid Vale Chardonnay Grenache Blanc 1999 [illegible]

Rhône Valley White 1999 — 14 — £3.50

Sancerre Domaine Raimbault 1998 — 14 — £5–7

Vin de Pays d'Oc Chardonnay Viognier NV, Co-op — 13.5 — £5.00

Vin de Pays d'Oc Chenin Chardonnay NV, Co-op (vegetarian) — 12 — £5.00

Vin de Pays d'Oc Syrah Rosé NV, Co-op — 11 — £3.50

Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Co-op — 11.5 — £3.50

Vin de Pays du Jardin de la France Sauvignon Blanc NV, Co-op — 12 — £3.50

GERMAN WHITE

Bockenheimer Grafenstuck Beerenauslese 1998 (half bottle) — 16 — £5.00

Devil's Rock Riesling 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Kendermans Dry Riesling 1999 — 11 — £5.00

Twin Rivers Riesling 2000 — 13 — £5.00

HUNGARIAN RED

Hungarian Country Wine NV, Co-op — 13 — £3.50

Kekfrancos Oaked Merlot 1999, Co-op — 13 — £5.00

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Chapel Hill Irsai Oliver 2000 — 13 — £3.50

Gyöngyös Estate Chardonnay 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Hungarian White NV, Co-op — 12.5 — £3.50

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 — 15 — £5.00

ITALIAN RED

Barrelaia NV, Co-op — 13 — £5.00

Bona Terra Organic Merlot 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Il Padrino Rosso Sicilia 1999 — 15 — £5.00

Inycon Merlot 1999 (Sicily) — 15.5 — £5.00

Otto Santi Chianti Classico 1999 — 13 — £5–7

Puglia Primitivo Sangiovese 2000, Co-op — 15 — £5.00

Trulli Primitivo del Salento 1998 — 14.5 — £5.00

Valpolicella NV, Co-op — 12 — £3.50

Zagara Nero d'Avola Cabernet 2000	12	~£5.00

ITALIAN WHITE

Chardonnay dell'Umbria 1999, Co-op	12	~£5.00
Chardonnay Vallagerina 2000, Co-op	13	~£5.00
Puglia Chardonnay Bombino 1999, Co-op	12	~£5.00
Villa Lanata Gavi 2000	16.5	~£5.00
Zagara Catarratto Chardonnay Furriato 2000 (Sicily)	16.5	~£5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Terrace View Cabernet Merlot 1999	13	~£5.00

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Explorer's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Co-op	14	£5–7
Matua Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2001	16.5	£5–7
Oyster Bay Marlborough Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5–7
Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£5–7
Stoneleigh Chardonnay 1999	15.5	~£5.00

PORTUGUESE RED

Big Baga 1999, Co-op	13.5	~£5.00
Portada Tinto 2000	13	~£5.00
Star Mountain Oak Aged 1997	13.5	~£5.00
Star Mountain Touriga Nacional 1997	14	~£5.00
Terra Boa Portuguese Red 2000	13	~£5.00

PORTUGUESE WHITE

Fiuza Chardonnay 1999	16	~£5.00
Portuguese Chardonnay 1999, Co-op	14.5	£5–7

ROMANIAN RED

Prahova Valley Pinot Noir 1999	12.5	£3.50
Prahova Valley Special Reserve Merlot 1999	15	~£5.00
Romanian Prairie Merlot 1999, Co-op	14.5	~£3.50

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Cape American Oak Pinotage 1999, Co-op	14	~£5.00
Cape Indaba Pinotage 1998	13	~£5.00
Cape Red NV, Co-op	11	~£3.50
Cape Ruby Cabernet, Oak Aged 2000, Co-op	13	~£5.00

Elephant Trail Cinsault/Merlot 2000, Co-op — 15 — £5.00

Fire Engine Red 1999 — 13.5 — £5.00

Goiya Giaan 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Kumala Ruby Cabernet Merlot 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Natural State Cape Soleil Organic Shiraz 1999 — 15 — £5–7

Oak Village Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Pinnacle Merlot 1998 — 14 — £5–7

Railroad Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Spice Route Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1998 — 14.5 — £7–10

Three Worlds Pinotage Shiraz Zinfandel 1999, Co-op — 13.5 — £5–7

Winds of Change Pinotage/Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 14 — £3.00

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Cape Chenin Blanc, Oak Aged 2000, Co-op — 13.5 — £5.00

Cape Soleil Organic Chardonnay 1999, Co-op — 13 — £5.00

Cape White NV, Co-op — 13 — £3.50

Elephant River Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000, Co-op — 14 — £3.50

First Release Chardonnay 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Goiya Kgeisje Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Not Too Dry Chardonnay 2001 — 12 — £5.00

Oak Village Sauvignon Blanc 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Pendulum Pink 2001 — 12 — £5.00

Robert's Rock Chardonnay Semillon 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Spice Route Chenin Blanc 1998 — 13 — £5–7

Stowells South African Chenin Blanc NV — 13 — £5.00

SPANISH RED

Berberana Rioja Tempranillo 1999 — 14 — £5.99

Berberana Rioja Viura 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Campo Rojo Cariñena NV — 12 — £3.50

Chestnut Gully Monastrell-Merlot 1999, Co-op — 13.5 — £5.00

Rioja Tinto, Viña Gala NV, Co-op — 13.5 — £5.00

Tempranillo Oak Aged NV, Co-op — 13 — £3.50

Tierra Sana Organic Wine 1999, Co-op — 17 — £5.00

XV Monastrell 2000 — 16 — £5.00

SPANISH WHITE

Gandia Grenache Rosé 1999 — 14.5 — £5.00

Jaume Serra Chardonnay 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Torres Viña Sol 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

USA RED

California Premium Red NV, Co-op — 13.5 — £3.50

Fetzer Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 — 14.5 — £5–7

'Laid Back Ruby' California Ruby Cabernet 1999, Co-op — 15 — £5.00

Sebastiani Sonoma Cask Old Vine Zinfandel 1998 — 15.5 — £7–10

USA WHITE

Garnet Point Chardonnay-Chenin 1997 — 15.5 — £5.00

Sebastiani Sonoma Chardonnay 1998 — 15.5 — £7–10

'The Big Chill' California Colombard Chardonnay 1999, Co-op — 13.5 — £5.00

'The Big Chill' California Colombard Chardonnay 2000, Co-op — 13.5 — £5.00

FORTIFIED

Dow's LBV Port 1995 — 14.5 — £7–10

Graham's LBV Port 1994 — 14.5 — £10–13

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV — 15 — £7–10

SPARKLING

Asti NV, Co-op — 11 — £5.00

Australian Quality Sparkling Wine, Co-op — 14 — £5.00

Blossom Hill NV (USA) — 13 — £5–7

Cava Brut NV, Co-op — 14 — £5.00

English Sparkling Brut NV, Co-op — 12 — £5–7

Inanda Brut NV (South Africa) — 15.5 — £5.00

Jacob's Creek Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Australia) — 15 — £5–7

Jean de Bracieux Champagne NV (France) — 12 — £10–15

Moscato Spumante NV, Co-op (Italy) 11% £5.00

Rosemount V Sparkling Chardonnay NV 14.5% £5–7

Sparkling Chardonnay NV, Co-op (France) 12% £5.00

Sparkling Saumur NV, Co-op 11% £5–7

Tempranillo Brut Red NV, Co-op 13.5% £5–7

Y2K Champagne NV (France) 13% £13–20

KWIK SAVE

See Somerfield/Kwik Save, page 293

AUSTRALIAN RED

Australian Dry Red 2000, Somerfield 13 £5.00

Australian Shiraz Cabernet 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00

Banrock Station Shiraz/Mataro 2000 15 £5.00

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Banrock Station Colombard Chardonnay 2001 14 £3.00

BULGARIAN RED

Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 1999. Somerfield 13.5 £3.50

Bulgarian Country Red 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

CHILEAN RED

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon Viña La Rosa 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £5.00

CHILEAN WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £5.00

Chilean White 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50

FRENCH RED

Brouilly Les Celliers de Bellevue 2000 13 £5.7

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc 2000, Somerfield 14 £3.50

Claret 2000, Somerfield 15 £3.50

Corbières Rouge 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Côtes du Rhône 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Les Oliviers French Red NV 13.5 £2.50

Skylark Hill Red 2000 12 £3.50

FRENCH WHITE

Les Oliviers French White NV 14.5 £2.50

Muscadet 2000, Somerfield — 13 — £3.50

Skylark Hill VdP du Comte Tolosan 2000 — 13 — £3.50

Winter Hill White 2000 — 14 — £5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Hock NV, Somerfield — 14.5 — £2.50

ITALIAN RED

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2000, Somerfield — 14 — £5.00

ITALIAN WHITE

Sicilian White 2000, Somerfield — 13 — £3.50

Soave 2000, Somerfield — 13.5 — £5.00

SPANISH RED

Don Darias Red NV — 14.5 — £3.50

Flamenco Red NV — 14 — £3.50

Viña Cana Rioja Crianza 1998, Somerfield — 14 — £5.00

SPANISH WHITE

Moscatel de Valencia, Somerfield — 16 — £3.50

SPARKLING

Asti Spumante NV, Somerfield — 11.5 — £5.7

Cava Brut NV, Somerfield — 12 — £5.00

Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut NV — 12 — £5.7

Martini Asti Spumante NV — 11 — £5.7

Moscato Fizz, Somerfield (Italy) — 13 — £2.50

MARKS & SPENCER

This retailer needs all the support we can give it Personally, I attend wine tastings kitted out in M&S underpants under M&S chinos and M&S lightweight Italian socks in my M&S casual shoes. My shirt, and often my sweater, has a M&S label (usually so dated it claims descent from St Michael). Only my belt comes from elsewhere

M&S is more important than the royal family yet it has come in for acres of critical mis-acclaim over its commercial difficulties, its problems over laying off workers in Europe, and its apparent failure to judge the style requirements of its customers. Ironically, in July 2000, it revealed its 'Exclu sively for Everyone' advertising slogan for the first time, the centre of a new £27 million advertising campaign, scheduled to begin in September 2000 The slogan may be nonsense but I am the living proof of its truth.

The wines? Some splendid examples, some not so splendid, some patently created to match a perceived need (thus somewhat lacking in character and style) As with all the retailers in this book, I asked M&S the same question 'What in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?'

It replied.

> *'Marks & Spencer has a highly qualified wine team that works with our wine suppliers and the wine-makers to develop exclusive wines that are unique to M&S Our first consideration is to always find the highest quality wines. Over the next 18 months we will be expanding the range of our wines, adding 50% to the catalogue, bringing new and exciting wines to our customers, with the reassurance of M&S quality.'*

In other words, M&S organises how it sources wines in the same meticulous way it organises how sandwiches are made up and underpants sewn. The strength of the wine range is that it is situated within an M&S store that offers these other things As for its particular style . . . well, it has none The M&S stores I walk into have the wines as adjuncts to the food departments and what style there is can be best described as basic or, if you

prefer, no nonsense. There really is not much more to say about the wines, the entries that follow speak for themselves

However, the company as a whole has had a torrid time, descending from its totemic place in the UK retailing hierarchy to one of widely critical disdain in spite of some interesting initiatives. For example, last summer in an attempt to combat its falling profits M&S reportedly warned suppliers to shave 2% off their prices.

Following hard on the heels of this tough stance and to show it meant business, M&S opened three stores, at Ashford, Cheshire Oaks and Livingston, offering reductions of up to 30%. The M&S chairman, Luc Vandevelde, then issues a call-to-arms to his staff and slammed negative comments made by former chairman, Sir Richard Greenbury. Sir Richard had said on Radio 4 that the 'jury is still out' regarding the future of M&S and he publicly questioned the changes in buying, distribution and head office structure instituted by Mr Vandevelde. 'We'll have to wait and see whether such enormous change was necessary,' he said. In an interview in *The Sunday Times*, in August last year, the former chairman was also critical of the 'revolution' at the store, saying that new designer ranges would alienate traditional customers

Personally, I thought Sir Richard was right I'm a trad customer and I thought the new Autograph range, for example, was totally out of place. I visited the section given over to this range many times at a key high street location and only once did I witness a flicker of interest by a cool dude customer. Mr Vandevelde quite rightly was upset by the former chairman's comments and did not mince his words in an e-mail to staff 'I am shocked that a former chairman has spoken publicly in a way that is clearly damaging to the company and painful to our people.'

Some months later, spring 2001, Mr Vandevelde made an unprecedented personal plea to M&S shoppers to keep faith in the retailer Posters were put up in the company's 299 stores after the retailer announced its radical restructuring programme. The message read. 'Our plan is to create a more focused organisation so that we are able to get on with what we do best. We are determined to restore an unquestioned reputation for quality, value, service and innovation.'

As long as they don't start employing the sort of sweat shops that got Nike into so much trouble, M&S can count on my support as an underpants and sock wearer. It is, after all, an important British company still doing massive business The trade magazine *Retail Week* printed a list of the top

500 UK retailers and this showed M&S's turnover had dropped from £6 6 billion in 1999 to £6.48 billion in 2000.

It is widely predicted that turnover will show a further decline in 2001. All I can say is that I'm doing my bit to help. There's still no one else with cheaper socks and pants at the same quality, and though the range of wines cannot make the same claim there are nevertheless some extremely worthy bottles.

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ARGENTINIAN RED

Canale Estate Reserve Merlot 1999	16	£7–10
Rio Santos Bonarda Barbera 2000	14.5	£5.00
Rio Santos Cabernet Sauvignon Syrah 2000	13.5	£5.00
Rio Santos Malbec 2000	13.5	£5.00
San Pablo Estate NV	16	£7–10
Villar Cortes Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	13.5	£7–10

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Rio Santos Torrontes 2000	14	£5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Cabernet/Shiraz 1999	12	£5–7
Clare Valley Merlot/ Cabernet Sauvignon/ Cabernet Franc/Malbec 1998	13.5	£7–10
Honey Tree Cabernet Merlot 2000	13.5	£5–7
Honey Tree Shiraz Cabernet 2000	13	£5–7
Honey Tree Grenache Shiraz 1999	13	£5–7
Honey Tree Reserve Pinot Noir 1999	14	£7–10
Honey Tree Shiraz Reserve 1998	14	£7–10

Lenbridge Forge Pinot Noir 2000	12	£7–10
SE Australian Shiraz 1999	15	£5–7
Shiraz Merlot Ruby Cabernet Bin 312 2000	13	~£5.00
South East Australian Cabernet 2000	16.5	~£5.00
South East Australian Merlot 2000	15.5	~£5.00
South Eastern Australian Shiraz 2000	14.5	~£5.00
Twin Wells Heathcote Shiraz 1999	16	£7–10

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Australian Chardonnay/Semillon/ Colombard 2000	12	~£3.50
Chardonnay Bin 109	13.5	~£5.00
Honey Tree Gewürztraminer Riesling 2000	15	£5–7
Honey Tree Semillon Chardonnay 2000	15	£5–7
McLean's Farm Riesling, St Hallett 2000	13	£7–10
Semillon Bin 381 2000	16	~£5.00
South Eastern Australian Chardonnay	16	~£5.00
Tumbarumba Chardonnay 1998	14.5	£7–10

CHILEAN RED

Casa Leona Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	16.5	~£5.00
Casa Leona Merlot	16.5	~£5.00
Cuartel 34 Malbec Reserve 1999	16	£7–10
Leon de Oro Merlot/ Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	17	£7–10
Los Claveles Cabernet/ Carmenère 2000	15	~£5.00
Pirque Estate Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000	16.5	£5–7
Sierra Los Andes Merlot Cabernet 1999	16	£5–7
Sierra Los Andes Reserve Cabernet Merlot 1999	17.5	£5–7
Tolten Syrah/Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	17	£7–10

CHILEAN WHITE

Barrera Chardonnay 2000	13.5	~£5.00
Casa Leona Chardonnay 2000	14	~£5.00
Los Claveles Gewürztraminer 2000	13.5	~£5.00
Pirque Estate Chardonnay 2000	13	£7–10
Pirque Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13	£7–10

FRENCH RED

Beaune Cent-Vignes Premier Cru 1999	12	£18–20
Benjamin de Pontet Pauillac 1997	16	£10–13
Bin 121 Merlot/Ruby Cabernet 2000	14	£5.00
Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits Genevrières 1999	11	£7–10
Bourgogne Rouge Sordet 1998	11	£7–10
Château d'Artix Minervois 1999	16.5	£5–7
Château de Surville Costières de Nîmes 1999	12	£5–7
Château Gallais Bellevue Cru Bourgeois, Médoc 1998	13.5	£5–7
Château Gressina, Bordeaux Supérieur 2000	14	£5.00
Château Haut Duriez Haut-Médoc 2000	15	£5–7
Château La Roseraie Dumont Puisseguin Saint-Emilion 2000	16.5	£5–7
Château Lataste Premières Côtes de Bordeaux 1996	16	£5.00
Coeur de Vallée VdP d'Oc 2000	14.5	£5.00
Côtes du Parc, Coteaux du Languedoc 2000 (organic)	16	£5.00
Domaine Galetis Cabernet/Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000	15	£5.00
Domaine St Pierre VdP de l'Hérault 2000	13	£3.50
Gold Label Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Oc 2000	13	£5.00
Gold Label Reserve Barrel Aged Syrah VdP d'Oc 1998	16.5	£5–7
Gold Label Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000	14.5	£5.00
House Red Wine, VdP du Comte Tolosan 2000	13.5	£3.50
La Colonie VdP des Collines de la Moure 1998	16.5	£5–7
Les Romaines VdP. d'Oc 1998	12	£7–10
Margaux 1997	13.5	£10–13
Mercurey Premier Cru Domaine Levert 1998	11	£7–10
Rock Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	15.5	£5.00
St-Joseph, Cuvée Côte-Diane, 1998	16	£7–10
Silver Tree Shiraz 1999	14	£7–10
Terre du Lion St-Julien 1997	15.5	£7–10
Volnay Premier Cru 1999	13.5	£13–20

FRENCH WHITE

Bordeaux Sauvignon 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Chablis Grand Cru Grenouille 1995 — 14 — £20+

Chablis Premier Cru Fourchaume 1997 — 13.5 — £10–13

Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru Morgeot 'Les Senteurs' 1998 — 10 — £20+

Château La Gordonne Côtes de Provence Rosé 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Coeur de Vallée VdP d'Oc 2000 — 16.5 — £5.00

Domaine de Castellas Côtes de Roussillon 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Domaine de Chevaunet Touraine Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Domaine de la Pouvraie Vouvray 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Domaine Galatis Chardonnay/Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Domaine Mandeville Viognier 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Gold Label Barrel Fermented Chardonnay Reserve 2000 — 15.5 — £5–7

Gold Label Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Gold Label Sauvignon Blanc VdP d'Oc 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Les Ruettes Sancerre 2000 — 14.5 — £7–10

Mâcon-Villages 2000 — 15 — £5–7

Mercurey Premier Cru Domaine de la Grangerie 1999 — 15 — £10–13

Pouilly-Fumé Les Vignes de St-Laurent-l'Abbaye 2000 — 15.5 — £7–10

Rosé d'Anjou 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Rosé de Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

St-Véran Les Monts 1999 — 16 — £5–7

St-Aubin Premier Cru Domaine du Pimont [illegible] — 13.5 — £10–13

Sancerre Domaine Hubert Brochard 2000 — 13 — £7–10

Silver Tree Chardonnay 2000 — 14.5 — £5–7

VdP des Côtes de Gascogne 2000 — 14 — £3.50

Vin de Pays du Gers 2000 — 15 — £3.50

ITALIAN RED

Amarone Classico della Valpolicella Villalta 1997 — 16.5 — £10–13

Barolo 1996 — 13.5 — £13–20

Canfera 1997	14.5	£7–10
Chianti Classico Basilica Cafaggio Single Estate 1999	16	£7–10
Italian Table Red Wine NV (1 litre)	14	–£3.50
Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2000	15.5	£7–10
Reggiano Rosso Single Estate 2000	13	–£5.00
Rosso di Puglia 2000	12	–£3.50
Sangiovese di Puglia 2000	13.5	–£5.00
Valpolicella Classico Single Estate 1999	12	–£5.00

ITALIAN WHITE

Frascati Superiore Single Estate 2000	15.5	£5.00
Orvieto Single Estate 2000	16	–£5.00
Pinot Grigio/ Garganega 2000	14.5	–£5.00
Soave Superiore Single Estate 2000	16	–£5.00
Villa Masera Organic Wine 2000	13	–£5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Kaituna Hills Cabernet Merlot 1999	16	£5–7
Kaituna Hills Reserve Cabernet Merlot 1999	15.5	£7–10
Kaituna Hills Reserve Pinot Noir 1999	10	£7–10

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Kaituna Blue Sauvignon Semillon 2000	13	–£5.00
Kaituna Hills Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5–7
Kaituna Hills Reserve Chardonnay 2000	13.5	£7–10
Kaituna Hills Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 1999	14	£7–10
Kaituna Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2000	14	£5–7
Shepherds Ridge Chardonnay 1999	13.5	£7–10
Shepherds Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13	£7–10

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Cape Country Cinsault/Ruby Cabernet 2000	13	–£5.00
Monate Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	13	£7–10
Monate Shiraz 2000	13.5	£7–10
Rock Ridge Pinotage 2000	14	–£5.00
Warwick Estate Trilogy 1997	12	£7–10

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Cape Country Chenin Blanc 2001	14.5	£5.00
'Life from Stone' Sauvignon Blanc, Springfield Estate 2000	13.5	£5–7
Rockridge Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00

SPANISH RED

Almuran Monastrell 2000	15	£5.00
Las Falleras 2000	13.5	£3.50
Marisa Tempranillo 2000	13	£5.00
Rioja Roseral Crianza 1998	13	£5–7

SPANISH WHITE

Moscatel de Valencia 2000	16	£5.00

URUGUAYAN RED

Polo Sur Pisano Family Reserve Tannat 2000	14	£7–10

USA RED

Clear Lake Cabernet Franc 2000	15	£5.00
Freedom Ridge Shiraz 2000	13.5	£5–7
Live Oak Road Old Bush Vine Zinfandel 2000	13.5	£7–10
Zamora Zinfandel 1999	14	£5–7

USA WHITE

Clear Lake Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5.00
Clear Lake Rosé Merlot/Cabernet 2000	12	£5.00
Dunnigan Lane Fume Blanc 2000	13.5	£5–7
Gardeners Grove Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£7–10

SPARKLING

Bluff Hill Brut NV (New Zealand)	15	£5–7
Cava Brut NV (Spain)	13.5	£5–7
Cava Medium Dry NV (Spain)	12	£5–7
Champagne de St Gall Blanc de Blancs NV	15	£13–20
Champagne de St Gall Brut NV	13.5	£13–20
Champagne Desroches NV	13.5	£13–20
Champagne Oudinot Grand Cru 1997	16	£13–20
Cuvée Orpale Grand Cru 1990	12	£20+

Gold Label Sparkling Chardonnay NV (France) 11.5 £5–7

Vintage Cava 1997 16.5 £7–10

Oudinot Brut Champagne 12 £10–13

SEE STOP-PRESS SECTION AT END OF BOOK FOR LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS OR UPDATES TO THIS RETAILER'S RANGE.

MORRISONS

I must confess that I knew when I asked the senior wine buyer here, Stuart Purdie, the question that I asked every other retailer in this edition of *Superplonk* 'What in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' – that he'd be too darned busy to get around to respond quickly so I felt no other course was open to me but to romanticise on his and Morrisons' behalf

Mr Purdie has been a very busy man and only recently has he acquired another buyer to help him (Suzie Cornwell, who was previously with the Spanish specialists Moreno Wines). Stuart is also a sheep farmer and the recent epidemic of foot and mouth disease has been keeping him occupied. It is said he knows every sheep in his flock by name

I did not help Stuart's workload when, in the last edition of this book, I invited readers to respond to the vacancy for the second wine buyer's job at Morrisons – now so ably filled by Ms Cornwell – and the store received 23,591 applications, 23,590 of which Stuart personally interviewed (the odd one out was disqualified when she admitted to being teetotal and allergic to pigeons, which Morrisons use as they're safer than e-mail) Competition for the job was so fierce that when the candidates had been whittled down to the final dozen, Sir Ken Morrison flew them to his mountain vineyard in California piloting his own Lear jet from Bradford airport During the flight Stuart gave each one a grilling, in several languages, as to their knowledge of vine diseases, soil types, and the brands of glue used to adhere labels on bottles. Ms Cornwell obviously knows her cebollas.

Morrisons is not the parochial bumpkin it once was. Last year, it reported a 9 1% increase in pre-tax profits to £86.4 million, in the 27 weeks to 6 August, with turnover up 15% to £1.7 billion in the same period. No wonder the board felt it could fork out a cool £2 million on a TV and press advertising campaign. It also considered giving Stuart his own computer and personal e-mail address (or pigeon), but as yet this is an unconfirmed rumour.

Then, out of the electronic ether, as I was putting the finishing touches to this book, Stuart's answer arrived It was all of 1,082 words long (eat your heart out, Leo Tolstoy) and I swear I wrote all of the foregoing before

it arrived. The coincidences to do with flight are happy ones and only confirm much of what I have written. Below are the edited highlights:

'Morrisons, that northern bunch of no nonsense, straight talking, what you see is-what you get retailers, are spreading their wings. When a bird spreads its wings it takes off and Morrisons are no exception. Flying high with 112 stores in tow, its eagle-eyed penetration into the South has put the northern cat among the southern pigeons. With stores in London, the commuter belt and South Wales, linked to its strong base, they are able to bring what's best in retailing to more than just the lucky few up north. Led by that intrepid explorer of our retail world, Sir Ken Morrison, they are as sure-footed as ever. He was knighted last year and the company completed a brilliant triple in being voted "Best Supermarket of the Year" and "Britain's Best Off Licence" soon after.

Morrisons is the country's fastest growing national supermarket chain with a range of wines suitable for every pocket and taste, and every occasion. Its 500-strong collection of competitively priced, good value wines is innovative in terms of content, presentation and promotion The company prides itself on its promotional facilities offering customers a diverse selection of wines, from around the globe. The range is balanced across all price points and regions, is not brand dominant and offers interest at every level.

The in store wine departments are efficiently and effectively merchandised to the highest standards, creating an enjoyable shopping environment. Clearly defined sections arranged country by country and by product type, means shoppers can buy their wine of choice easily. Eye-catching point of sale communicates strong promotional offers and low prices, while easy to read shelf edge descriptors enable customers to make an informed choice about what they are buying. The department's managers are well qualified and are always on hand to give advice to customers. Training days, study trips abroad and regular gatherings ensure managers' knowledge is kept up to-date.'

Maintaining our flight theme Stuart can be described as the 'Jumbo Jet' of the team Those of you who have seen his manly figure striding about your TV screen during the Morrisons company advert will readily see the similarity. Once off the ground, however, Stuart is as eagle-eyed as ever for a bargain or two. Work recently done, on Morrisons' Australian section, as well as Californian and South African, will be revealed by late Summer 2001. So called 'Old World' wines including France, Italy and Eastern Europe will be made to work harder with less space allocated in view of the relentless onslaught of good value, fruit-driven 'New World' styles.

Hardly surprising when you see the reluctance of some French wine-makers to change their ways to produce what many customers want reliable fruity soft wines that are full of flavours and sunshine.

Suzie Cornwell, not previously mentioned in despatches, has an in-depth knowledge of all things Iberian. Watch out for a new look to Morrisons' Spanish and Portuguese section. Stuart is also getting some free flamenco dance lessons during his lunch breaks.

Not mentioned, as it might be, in this purview is that Mr Purdie's focus on value for money in his range can upset people. Most notably the vast E & J Gallo wine company of California whose wines, in the late summer of 2001, he decided to chuck out 'We tasted a range of brands, all blind, and Gallo came out badly in comparison with the others,' he told me. 'It strikes me that retailers don't regularly taste all the brands they stock, because such wines look after themselves But if a brand isn't offering value for money then why should we tolerate it?'

The answer is, because it sells. But Stuart, and Morrisons, I am delighted to report, don't find this sufficient reason for inclusion. This, then, is a retailer that knows its own mind and cares passionately about value for money

This is a retailer that is really on the move and is no longer, as it was when I first began to write about it ten years ago, a purely northern phenomenon Last December, it was set to modernise 25 stores and open several new ones Newcomers included Ipswich and Wellingborough and the chain continued to show interest in extending its presence southwards It plans to open at least eight new stores over the next two years, bringing the total in the chain to 120 After the announcement that its pre-tax profits for the year were £219 million compared with £189 million the year before, it was established as the UK's fifth biggest grocer by market share on a turnover 18% higher at £3 5 billion.

Morrisons was launched on the FTSE-100 in the spring of 2001 and reported to be under pressure from large investors to appoint independent directors to the board following the retailer's elevation to this unique commercial club of the UK's 100 most fragrant listed companies.

Once you get independent directors on your board, however, directors who think wine is expensive red stuff which comes only from Bordeaux, what will happen to all those marvellous bargains from the unfashionable regions which Stuart regularly digs up? I keep my fingers crossed that Morrisons, and Mr Purdie, will continue to go their own sweet way as always, untrammelled by 'independent directors'.

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ARGENTINIAN RED

Balbi Barbaro 1997	16	£7–10
Balbi Malbec 1999	15.5	£5.00
Balbi Shiraz 1999	13	£5.00
La Nature Organic Barbera 2000	14	£5.00
Santa Julia Bonarda Sangiovese 1999	16	£5.00

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Etchart Rio de Plata Torrontes/ Chardonnay 2000	12	£5.00
La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000	14	£5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Barramundi Shiraz/ Merlot NV	15.5	£5.00
Brown Brothers Barbera 1998	13.5	£5–7
Cranswick Cabernet Merlot 1999	15.5	£5.00
Hardys Cabernet Shiraz Merlot 1998	15	£5–7
Lindemans Bin 45 Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	15	£5–7
'M' Australian Shiraz Cabernet NV	10	£5.00
Nottage Hill Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz 1999	16.5	£5–7
Tortoiseshell Bay Mourvedre Shiraz 2000	12	£5.00
Wakefield Shiraz Cabernet 2000	16	£5–7
Woolpunda Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	14.5	£5.00
Yellow Tail Shiraz 2000	15.5	£5.00

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Barramundi Semillon/ Chardonnay NV	16	£5.00

Cranswick Estate Botrytis Semillon 1999 (half bottle)	16	£5.00
Jindalee Chardonnay 1998	16	£3.00
Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 2000	16	£5.00
Nottage Hill Chardonnay 1999	16	£5.00
Oxford Landing Viognier 2000	16	£5–7
Penfolds Koonunga Hill Chardonnay 2000	16	£5–7
Penfolds Rawsons Retreat Semillon/ Chardonnay/ Colombard 1999	14	£5.00
Rosemount Chardonnay 2000	16	£5–7
Rosemount Estate GTR 2000	15	£5–7
Rothbury Cowra Chardonnay 2000	12.5	£5.00
Stamp Grenache Shiraz 2000	13	£5.00
Tortoiseshell Bay Sauvignon Semillon 2000	13.5	£5.00
Wakefield Unwooded Chardonnay 2001	13	£5–7
Yellow Tail Chardonnay 2000	14.5	£5.00
Yellow Tail Verdelho 2001	13.5	£5.00

BULGARIAN RED

Boyar Iambol Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	14.5	£3.50
Boyar Premium Oak Merlot 1997	13.5	£5.00
Danube Red 1999	13.5	£3.50

BULGARIAN WHITE

Boyar Pomorie Chardonnay 1998	10	£3.50

CHILEAN RED

Antares Merlot 2000	16	£5.00
Condor Chilean Merlot 2000	14.5	£5.00
'M' Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	14.5	£5.00
Undurraga Carmenère 2000	12	£5–7
Villa Montes Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	15.5	£5.00

CHILEAN WHITE

35 South Chardonnay 2000	14.5	£5.00
Antu Mapu Reserva Rosé 1999	13	£5.00
Condor Chilean Chardonnay 2001	13	£5.00
'M' Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13	£5.00

Montes Alpha Chardonnay 1998 — 17.5 — £7–10

Villa Montes Sauvignon Blanc 1999 — 14 — £5.00

FRENCH RED

Bouches du Rhône Merlot NV — 15 — £3.50

Château Cadillac Legourgues Bordeaux 1997 — 15 — £5–7

Château de Candale Haut-Médoc 1996 — 15 — £7–10

Château Saint Galier Graves 1999 — 14 — £3.00

Claret Bordeaux NV, Morrisons — 13.5 — £3.50

Falcon Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon, VdP d'Oc 1999 — 16 — £3.50

Falcon Ridge Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000 — 14 — £3.50

Falcon Ridge Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 — 14.5 — £3.50

Heritage des Caves des Papes Côtes du Rhône 1999 — 16 — £5.00

La Chasse du Pape Réserve Côtes du Rhône 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Les Planels Minervois 1999 — 14 — £5.00

'M' Côtes du Rhône NV — 13 — £3.50

'M' Côtes du Roussillon Red NV — 13 — £3.50

Minervois Cellier la Chouf NV — 13 — £3.50

Morgon Domaine de Chatelet 1999 — 13 — £5–7

Old Git Grenache Syrah 2000 — 14 — £3.50

Pic Saint Loup d'Une Nuit 1999 — 14 — £5.00

St-Emilion NV, Morrisons — 14 — £5–7

Sichel Médoc NV — 13 — £5–7

Winter Hill Red VdP d'Oc 1999 — 14 — £3.50

FRENCH WHITE

Château Lafont Menaut Pessac-Léognan, Graves 1999 — 16 — £7–10

Falcon Ridge Chardonnay 2000 — 14.5 — £3.50

Falcon Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 15 — £3.50

Gewurztraminer Preiss Zimmer 2000 — 15.5 — £5–7

Haut-Poitou Sauvignon Blanc NV — 14 — £3.50

Pinot Blanc Preiss Zimmer 2000 — 14 — £5.00

St-Véran 2000 — 14.5 — £5–7

Sancerre La Renardière 1999 — 12 — £7–10

Sichel Premières Côtes de Bordeaux Blanc NV	12.5	£3.00
Vouvray Les Grands Mortiers, Pierre Guery 2000	14	£5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Franz Reh Auslese 1999	16	£5.00
Kendermans Dry Riesling 1999	13	£5.00
Noble House Riesling 2000	14	£5.00
Urziger Wurzgarten Spätlese 1999	14.5	£5–7

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Ideal with Friends Chardonnay NV	12.5	£3.50
'M' Ideal with Friends Sauvignon Blanc NV	13	£3.50
Oliver Irsai Oliver 2000	12	£5.00

ITALIAN RED

Casa di Monzi Merlot 1999	13	£5.00
Inycon Merlot 2000	16.5	£5.00
Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Uggiano 1999	14	£5.00
Vino Rosso di Puglia NV	13.5	£3.50

ITALIAN WHITE

Casa de Monzi Chardonnay delle Venezie 1999	13	£5.00
Chardonnay di Puglia NV	13	£3.50
Chianti Colli Fiorenti Uggiano 1998	13	£5.00
Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily)	16	£5.00
Uggiano Orvieto Classico 2000	12	£5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Montana Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000	14	£5–7

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Moa Ridge Chardonnay 1999	13.5	£5–7
Moa Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2000	14	£5–7

PORTUGUESE RED

Dão Dom Ferraz 1999	15	£5.00
Tamara Red Vinho Regional Ribatejo 1999	13	£3.50

ROMANIAN RED

Prahova Valley Reserve Merlot 1999	13.5	£5.00

Proles Pontica Merlot 1995 — 13 — £5.00

Romanian Classic Pinot Noir 1998 — 11 — £2.50

Special Reserve Pinot Noir 1998 — 10 — £5.00

Special Reserve Sangiovese 1998 — 10 — £5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Cathedral Cellars Merlot 1996 — 14 — £7–10

Fairview Malbec 2000 — 16.5 — £5–7

Namaqua Classic Red NV (3 litre box) — 13.5 — £3.50

Old Cellar Cabernet Sauvignon 1995 — 13 — £3.00

Spice Route Andrew's Hope 1998 — 16.5 — £5–7

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Danie de Wet Chardonnay sur Lie 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Fair Cape Chenin Blanc 2000 — 14.5 — £3.50

Fairview Chardonnay 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Namaqua Classic Dry White NV (3 litre box) — 13.5 — £3.50

Spice Route Abbotsdale Colombard/Chenin Blanc 1998 — 16 — £5.00

Van Loveren Blanc de Noirs 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Van Loveren Semillon 1999 — 14 — £5.00

SPANISH RED

Baldoma Tinto Seleccio 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Gran Feudo Navarra Crianza 1997 — 13 — £5.00

Poema Old Vine Garnacha 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Rio Rojo Tinto NV — 14 — £3.50

Torres Sangre de Toro 1999 — 14 — £5–7

Vega del Rio Reserva Rioja 1994 — 13 — £7–10

Vega del Rio Rioja 1998 — 13 — £5–7

SPANISH WHITE

Poema Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Torres San Valentin 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Viña Albali Rosado 2000 — 13.5 — £3.50

USA RED

Beringer Zinfandel 1999 — 15 — £5–7

Blossom Hill California Red NV — 10 — £3.00

Blossom Hill Merlot 1999 — 13 — £5–7

Fetzer Bonterra Cabernet Sauvignon 1997	14	£7–10
Glen Ellen Pinot Noir 1997	12	£5–7
Glen Ellen Zinfandel 1998	13.5	£5–7
Ironstone Vineyards Cabernet Franc 1997	16	£5–7
Ironstone Vineyards Shiraz 1998	14.5	~£5.00
'M' Californian Red NV	14	~£3.50
Nathanson Creek Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	14	~£5.00
Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon 1997	12	£5–7
Turning Leaf Zinfandel 1996	12.5	£5–7

USA WHITE

Glen Ellen Chardonnay 1998	13.5	£5–7
Ironstone Chardonnay 1998	10	£5–7
'M' Californian White NV	13	~£3.50
Nathanson Creek White Zinfandel 1999	11	~£5.00
Wente Johannesburg Riesling 1997	16.5	~£5.00

FORTIFIED

Dow's LBV Port 1995	14.5	£7–10
Fonseca Bin No 27 Fine Reserve Port NV	13	£7–10
Graham's LBV Port 1994	13.5	£10–13
Taylor's LBV Port 1995	13	£7–10
Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV	13	£7–10

SPARKLING

Barramundi Sparkling NV (Australia)	16	~£5.00
Brut de Channay NV (France)	11	~£5.00
Chapel Hill Chardonnay-Pinot Noir NV (Hungary)	12	~£5.00
'M' Vintage Cava 1998	16	£5–7
Mumm Cuvée Napa Brut NV (California)	16	£7–10
Nicole d'Aurigny Champagne NV	14	£7–10
Paul Herard Champagne Brut NV	12	£10–13
Reminger Sparkling Brut NV (France)	10	~£5.00
Santa Carolina Chardonnay Brut 1996 (Chile)	13	£5–7
Seaview Brut NV (Australia)	14	£5–7
Seaview Brut Rosé (Australia)	13.5	£5–7
Sparkling Zero (alcohol free)	0	~£2.50

SAFEWAY

'What,' I asked Safeway, 'in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?'

Answer came there none. The deadline approached. Then the PR department rang me to confirm the price of a wine in my column, and I gently prodded them, In the days when it had a clearly identified controlling head of its wine department, the iconic (but not laconic) Elizabeth Robertson, I would have received a three-page fax answer to my question within the week. As far as I know, there is now no head of the department, but that does not mean its department lacks direction, or that it does not know where it is going. Though, having said that, a wine journalist like myself does appreciate knowing a retailer has an official department head to whom big questions, and problems, can be referred. Safeway has lacked this since Liz's departure.

However, on the day of the deadline, a fax arrived How old-fashioned such things seem now we have the Internet. But there it was. Safeway had got there in the end. Here is what it says of itself:

> *'At Safeway we are passionate about wine and focused on the quality of service to our customers. The WOW factor and making every customer feel important is reflected in the quality and depth of our range, the market-leading deals we can source and the exciting, colourful displays in-store. Safeway is the fastest growing supermarket retailer in the UK and we constantly strive to improve and better our offering.'*

Make of that what you will. It was not written by a wine buyer, that is for sure, but this offers us a revealing glimpse of the nature of the retailer under review here, which is different from any other in this book. Safeway obviously has bounce, confidence and chutzpah; you can go a long way in this world with these qualities.

Safeway continues to offer an interesting range, some terrific own-labels, and has a real nose for bargain reds from the South of France. Its strength used to be that it had a higher proportion of male wine buying customers compared with its competitors but this may no longer be true.

It has had an entertaining twelve months since the last guide's introductions were written and has found itself with publicity it would have wished to avoid. In August last year, for instance, it was the victim of a hoax e-mailer. E-mails were sent to 3,000 Safeway customers who had left their contact details at the Safeway website. They were told that from 13 August all the store's prices would be going up by 25% and if customers did not like it they should 'piss off' and shop at Tesco or Sainsbury's. The retailer sent a statement to these shocked customers apologising and reassuring them that there was no truth in the hoaxer's e-mail and further that this miscreant did not access any customers' personal details

This irritating happenstance did nothing to dent the company's more buoyant trading performance (sales up 5%) which improved to the extent that, after an absence of 18 months, it volleyed itself back into the FTSE 100 index of top-performing listed companies. It unveiled its newly refurbished St Katharine's Dock store, this three-month revitalisation programme was a major plank in chairman Carlos Criado-Perez's plans to re-energise Safeway. The St Katharine's Dock store will apparently become, according to the trade magazine *The Grocer*, a 'test bed for many new initiatives' Let us hope so. I look forward to seeing this book on sale there, in dump bins, in the wine aisles and by the checkouts and if we could have ten-minute announcements of the book's existence broadcast over the store's Tannoy system the publisher would very much appreciate it.

Perhaps, though, the term 'test-bed' referred to Safeway's offer to its customers of a lonely hearts matchmaking service for Valentine's Day. Shoppers filled in a questionnaire and received a free match courtesy of Dateline.

Safeway also claimed a major marketing coup in backing a concert in Hyde Park by Pavarotti to coincide with its 'Viva Italia' Italian food promotion in the summer. Ten new Italian wines were added to the range in case Signor Pavarotti felt thirsty. Mr Carlos Criado-Perez said the promotion and the concert would raise the retailer's profile in the Southeast and boost sales

It installed photo processing labs in 70 of its stores, to be up and running by the end of the next financial year. It also relaunched its website, *www.safeway.co.uk*, to make it a more effective on-line retailer, and was also reported to be offering travel services 'in collaboration with a third party' *Madaboutwine.com* has been signed up by Safeway to test a nationwide delivery service for wine with about 80 wines on offer. The joint service was due to go live in spring 2001, but I've had no reports of its success.

It launched a new staff training programme called Safeway School aimed at teaching staff the necessary skills to work in new areas like 'Fresh to Go'. The school offers courses, so I am reliably informed, in pizza throwing, French pastry, Japanese noodles and fresh coffee. I'm unable quite to see how anyone needs to be taught how to throw a pizza (my children's method was to simply lift the offending slice high and hurl), but perhaps if a graduate of the school is reading this (s)he might enlighten me (you can contact me via *superplonk.com*).

Further Safeway food initiatives include the opening of the first of an adventurous style of in store restaurant at the branch in High Wycombe Caf Fresco, as it is called, offers that dreadful culinary catch all 'a Mediterranean-style menu' but more innovatively it stays open in the evening when the store is shut. The concept will, if successful, be repeated in other stores. Useful, I guess, for all those lonely hearts Safeway is so keen to assuage with a suitable partner.

Safeway's first hypermarket in Plymouth loomed large, and was due to have its checkouts up and running by the autumn of 2001. The company is hopeful of opening 70 such hypermarkets over the next three years and I anticipate that these monsters will carry the full range of Safeway's wines. Thus, from being a bit wobbly around the knees a few years back, Safeway is striding forward with a new found confidence This confidence was boosted when it posted pre tax profits up by 33% to £314 million amidst ringing claims by the retailer that it has made 'a full recovery'.

I'm delighted to hear it The only small blip, as far as wine was concerned, was losing the services of one of British supermarketing's most able wine buyers, Mr Neil Sommerfelt, who left Safeway to become an associate director of the fine wine shipper, Laytons of London.

Can we also look forward to a head of department being appointed in Neil's stead? If she wasn't serenely happy and successful at Somerfield I'd suggest they head hunt Angela Mount – if, that is, they can afford to match the yellow* Ferrari and better the £250,000** a year which Somerfield cough up for her services.

* it has been learned from an impeccable source that Mrs Mount would prefer a black one (if that's not too much trouble).

** this is a *Superplonk* estimate based on the value for money she represents to her present employer. It may be an under-evaluation.

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UB3 4AY

Tel 01622 712987 Customer Services
Fax 020 8573 1865
www.safeway.co.uk

ARGENTINIAN RED

Adiseno Reserve Malbec 1999	15	£5–7
Argentinian Bonarda 2000, Safeway	15	£5.00
Argentinian Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Safeway	14	£5.00
Argentinian Syrah 2000, Safeway	15.5	£5.00
Caballo de Plata Bonarda/Barbera 2000	13	£3.50
Weinert Malbec 1994	16	£7–10

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Argentinian Chardonnay 1999, Safeway	16	£5.00
Caballo de Plata Shiraz/Malbec Rosada 2000	15.5	£5.00
Caballo de Plata Torrontes 2000	13.5	£3.50

AUSTRALIAN RED

Annies Lane Cabernet/Merlot 1999	13.5	£7–10
Australian Oaked Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Safeway	14.5	£5.00
Australian Oaked Shiraz 1999, Safeway	14	£5.00
Australian Shiraz 1999, Safeway	15	£5.00
Clancy's Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot/Cabernet Franc 1998	17	£7–10
CV Capel Vale Shiraz 1998	14.5	£7–10
Endeavour Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	12	£7–10
Evans & Tate Shiraz 1999	16	£7–10
Hardys Stamp Shiraz/Cabernet 2000	13	£5.00
Hardys Tintara Shiraz 1998	13	£7–10

Haselgrove 'Bentwing' Shiraz, Wrattonbully 1999	12	£7–10
Haselgrove 'H' Cabernet Sauvignon/ Merlot 1998	15	£13–20
Haselgrove Shiraz, McLaren Vale 1999	13	£7–10
Jindalee Merlot 2000	12	£5.00
Jindalee Shiraz 2000	13	£5.00
Masterpiece Shiraz Malbec 2000	11	£5–7
Metala Langhorne Creek Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	15.5	£7–10
Ninth Island Pinot Noir, Tasmania 1999	14	£7–10
Normans Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc 1996	14	£7–10
Penfolds Bin 128 Coonawarra Shiraz 1998	13.5	£7–10
Penfolds Organic Merlot Shiraz Cabernet 1998	15.5	£7–10
Peter Lehmann The Barossa Shiraz 1998	17	£5–7
Rosemount Estate Grenache/Shiraz 2000	13	£5–7
Rosemount Estate Merlot 1999	15	£7–10
Rosemount 'Hill of Gold' Shiraz, Mudgee 1998	17.5	£7–10
Rosemount Shiraz 1999	13.5	£7–10
Tatachilla Breakneck Creek Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	13.5	£5–7
Tatachilla Foundation Shiraz 1998	13.5	£13–20
Tatachilla Padthaway Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	16	£7–10
Tatachilla Shiraz 1999	15	£7–10
Wakefield Promised Land Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	12	£5–7
Wirrega Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon/ Petit Verdot 1999	16	£5–7
Wirrega Vineyards Shiraz 1999	13	£5–7
Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	14	£7–10
Woolshed Cabernet/ Shiraz/Merlot, Coonawarra 1998	17	£5–7

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Alkoomi Riesling, Frankland River 2000	14.5	£7–10
Alkoomi Sauvignon Blanc, Frankland River 2000	14	£7–10

Annie's Lane Semillon, Clare Valley 1999	15.5	£5–7
Bleasdale Verdelho, Langhorne Creek 2000	15	£5–7
Capel Vale CV Unwooded Chardonnay 1999	14.5	£7–10
CV Chenin Blanc 2000	16	£5–7
Endeavour Barrel-fermented Chardonnay, Limestone Coast 1999	14	£7–10
Hardys Tintara Chardonnay 2000	15	£7–10
Haselgrove 'H' Chardonnay 1999	14.5	£7–10
Jindalee Chardonnay 2000	16	– £5.00
Leasingham Bin 7 Riesling, Clare Valley 2000	13.5	£5–7
Loxton Low Alcohol Chardonnay (1.2% vol)	11	– £3.50
Mamre Brook Chardonnay 1999	16	£5–7
Nepenthe Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£7–10
Penfolds Bin 21 Rawson's Retreat Semillon/Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000	14	– £5.00
Peter Lehmann 'The Barossa' Semillon 1999	16.5	£5–7
Peter Lehmann Vine Vale Riesling, Barossa Valley 2000	16.5	– £5.00
Robertson Barrel Fermented Colombard 1999	13	– £5.00
Rosemount Estate Show Reserve Chardonnay 1999	16	£7–10
Rosemount Show Reserve Chardonnay 1998	15	£7–10
Tatachilla Breakneck Creek Chardonnay 2000	16.5	– £5.00
Tatachilla Chardonnay Adelaide Hills 1999	15.5	£7–10
Tatachilla Padthaway Chardonnay 2000	16	£5–7
Wakefield Promised Land Unwooded Chardonnay, Clare Valley 2000	13	£5–7
Wakefield St Andrew Chardonnay, Clare Valley 1998	14	£13–20

AUSTRIAN WHITE

Cat's Leap Grüner Veltliner 1999	12	– £5.00

BULGARIAN RED

Azbuka Merlot 1996	15	£5–7
Nazdrave Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	15.5	– £5.00
Sapphire Cove NV	14.5	– £3.50

Young Vatted Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Safeway — 14 — £3.50

Young Vatted Merlot 2000, Safeway — 12 — £3.50

BULGARIAN WHITE

Valley of the Roses Rosé 2000 — 14 — £3.50

CHILEAN RED

35 South Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 17 — £5.00

Acacias Estate Merlot, Maipo Valley 1998, Safeway — 14 — £5.00

Casa Lapostolle Cuvée Alexandre Merlot 1999 — 18 — £7–10

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Safeway — 13 — £5.00

Concha y Toro Casillero del Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 16.5 — £5.00

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel Valley 2000 — 17 — £5.00

El Cadejo Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Errázuriz Syrah Reserva 1999 — 15 — £7–10

Isla Negra Merlot 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 — 14 — £7–10

Valdivieso Malbec 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Valdivieso Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc 1998 — 16.5 — £7–10

Valdivieso Single Vineyard Merlot 1998 — 16.5 — £7–10

Viña Morande Syrah 2000 — 14 — £5.00

CHILEAN WHITE

Aresti Gewürztraminer 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Casa Lapostolle Cuvée Alexandre Chardonnay 1999 — 17 — £7–10

Chilean Dry White 2000, Safeway — 16 — £3.50

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Safeway — 16 — £5.00

Santa Rita Chardonnay 1999 — 16 — £5–7

FRENCH RED

Anciennes Vignes Carignan, VdP de l'Aude 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Baron de Lestac, Bordeaux 1998 — 14.5 — £5.00

Beaune 1998, Safeway — 10 — £7–10

Beaune Premier Cru, Les Epenottes 1998 — 13.5 — £10–20

Bourgueil Les Chevaliers 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Oc 2000, Safeway — 15.5 — £3.00

Château Boisset Cuvée Eugenie La Clape, Coteaux du Languedoc 2000 — 16.5 — £5–7

Château Chaubinet Bordeaux 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Château Clos de La Chesnaie, Lalande-de-Pomerol 1998 — 14.5 — £7–10

Château d'Agassac, Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois 1998 — 13.5 — £10–13

Château de Coulaine, Chinon 1999 (organic) — 16 — £5–7

Château de Lausières, Coteaux du Languedoc 1999 — 16.5 — £5.00

Château de Villenouvette, Cuvée Marcel Barsalou Corbières 1998 — 16.5 — £7–10

Château du Tasta, Premières Côtes de Bordeaux 1998 — 13 — £5.00

Château Jouanin Cuvée Prestige, Côtes du Castillon 1998 — 15 — £5–7

Château La Rose Brisson St-Emilion Grand Cru 1998 — 16 — £10–13

Château Liversan, Cru Bourgeois, Haut-Médoc 1997 — 12 — £7–10

Château Maison Neuve Montagne-St-Emilion — 15.5 — £7–10

Château Montbrun de Gautherius Corbières 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Château Philippe de Vessiere, Costières de Nîmes 1997 — 15.5 — £5.00

Château Pouchard-Larquey Bordeaux 1998 — 15 — £5–7

Château Pouchard-Larquey, Bordeaux 1998 (organic) — 15.5 — £5–7

Château Rozier, St-Emilion Grand Cru 1998 — 13.5 — £10–13

Château Salitis Cabardès 1998 — 15 — £5–7

Château Teyssier Montagne-St-Emilion 1998 — 15 — £7–10

Château Tour du Mont, Haut-Médoc 1999 — 14 — £5–7

Château Troupian Haut-Médoc 1998 — 14 — £7–10

Château Villespassans St-Chinian 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Château Vircoulon Bordeaux 1999 — 16.5 — £5.00

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 1999, Safeway — 12 — £7–10

Chevalier de Malle, Graves 1998 14 £7–10

Claret NV, Safeway 16 –£5.00

Corbières 2000, Safeway 13.5 –£3.50

Crozes-Hermitage Etienne Barret 2000 15 £5–7

Domaine Chris Limouzi, Corbières 1998 15.5 £5–7

Domaine de l'Auris Syrah, Côtes du Roussillon 1998 16 £5–7

Domaine de Tudery St-Chinian 1998 16.5 £5–7

Domaine des Lauriers, Faugères 1998 17 £5–7

Domaine La Tour du Maréchal Merlot, VdP de l'Hérault 2000 (organic) 15 –£5.00

Domaine Montmija, Corbières 1999 (organic) 14 –£5.00

Enclos des Cigales Merlot, VdP d'Oc 2000 16 –£5.00

Enclos des Cigales Syrah, VdP d'Oc 1999 15.5 –£5.00

Fitou 1999, Safeway 13.5 –£5.00

Fleurie Domaine des Raclets 2000 14 £5–7

Gevrey-Chambertin Domaine Rossignol-Trapet 1998 12 £13–20

Jean Louis Denois Grenache/Syrah/Mourvèdre, VdP d'Oc 1999 15 –£5.00

Jean Louis Denois Mourvèdre/Grenache, VdP d'Oc 1999 13.5 £5–7

L'Enclos Domeque Syrah/Malbec, VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 –£5.00

L'If Merlot/Carignan, VdP du Torgan 2000 16.5 –£5.00

La Cuvée Mythique VdP d'Oc 1998 16 £5–7

La Nature Rhône Valley Red 2000 14 –£5.00

La Source Merlot/Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000 16 –£5.00

Merlot Réserve Mont Tauch, VdP du Torgan 1999 17.5 £7–10

Merlot Vin de Pays d'Oc 2000, Safeway 16 –£3.50

Minervois 2000, Safeway 15.5 –£3.50

Minervois Domaine de Bayac 'Les Pierres Blanches' 1999 14 £5–7

Mont Tauch Merlot, Barrel Matured, VdP du Torgan 1998 17 £7–10

Moulin de Ciffre Faugères 1999 13 £5–7

Pinot Noir d'Autrefois VdP d'Oc 2000 14 –£5.00

Pommard Premier Cru Les Arvelets 1996 12 £13–20

Red Burgundy 1999 13 £5–7

Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000, Safeway 13.5 £3.50

Vacqueyras Domaine la Bouscatière 1999 14 £5–7

Val Bruyère Côtes du Rhône Villages 2000 14 £5.00

'Yellow Jersey' Rhône Valley Côtes de Ventoux 2000 14 £5.00

Young Vatted Grenache VdP de l'Ardèche 1999 15 £3.50

FRENCH WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 2000, Safeway 15 £5–7

Chablis Premier Cru Beauroy 1999 13 £10–13

Chablis Laroche 1999 12 £7–10

Château de La Gravelle, Muscadet de Sèvres-et-Maine sur Lie 2000 16 £5.00

Château Magneau, Graves 1999 13 £5–7

Chenin VdP du Jardin de la France 2000, Safeway 13.5 £3.50

Corbières Rosé 2000 13.5 £5.00

Domaine de Bosquet Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000 13.5 £5–7

Domaine de Ciffre Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 13.5 £5–7

Domaine de l'Ecu Muscadet de Sèvres-et-Maine sur Lie 2000 13.5 £5.00

Domaine La Tour du Maréchal Chardonnay, VdP de l'Hérault 2000 (organic) 13.5 £5.00

Domaine Lafage Muscat Sec, VdP d'Oc 1999 14 £5.00

French Revolution Le Blanc 1999 14 £5.00

James Herrick Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 1999 16 £5.00

La Source Chardonnay/ Roussanne VdP d'Oc 2000 13.5 £5.00

'Les Caudanettes' Anjou Blanc 2000 13 £3.50

Montagny Premier Cru 1998, Safeway 14 £7–10

Pinot Blanc Alsace 2000, Safeway 13.5 £5.00

Pouilly-Fuissé 1998, Safeway 12 £7–10

Sancerre 'Les Bonnes Bouches' 2000 11 £7–10

Sauvignon Blanc Cuvée Réserve VdP d'Oc 2000	13.5	£5.00
St-Véran 1997	13	£5–7
Touraine Sauvignon 1999	13.5	£5.00
VdP de l'Ardèche Rosé 2000, Safeway	13	£3.50
Via Domitia Chardonnay/Viognier Réserve Spéciale, VdP d'Oc 2000	13	£5–7
Viognier Cuvée Réserve, VdP d'Oc 2000	13	£5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Langenbach St Johanner Spätlese, Rheinhessen 2000	10	£5.00
Mertes Riesling Classic Medium, Pfalz 1999	11	£3.50
Peter Mertes Dry Riesling 1999	12.5	£3.50
SA Prum Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett 1997	16	£5–7

HUNGARIAN RED

Riverview Kekfrancos/ Merlot 2000	13.5	£5.00
Hilltop Virgin Vintage Sauvignon Blanc 1999	16	£5–7
Irsai Oliver 2000, Safeway	14	£3.50
Karolyi Estate Private Reserve 2000	13.5	£5.00
Matra Mountain Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Safeway	14	£5.00
Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000	15	£5.00
Riverview Gewürztraminer 2000	14	£5.00
Riverview Sauvignon Blanc 2000	15	£5.00

ITALIAN RED

Alto Varo Rosso di Puglia 2000	13	£5.00
Araldica Albera Barbera d'Asti Superior, Piemonte 1999	14	£5.00
Canaletto Nero d'Avola/Merlot 2000	13	£5.00
D'Istinto Sangiovese Merlot 1999 (Sicily)	13.5	£5.00
Italia Negroamaro 2000	13	£5.00
Italia NV	13	£5.00
La Nature Organic Nero d'Avola 2000 (Sicily)	14	£5.00
Melini Chianti 1998	12	£5.00
Sentiero NV	13	£3.50
Sentiero Rosso NV (3 litre box)	11	£3.50

ITALIAN WHITE

Arcadia Veronese Rosata 2000	14.5	~£5.00
Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily)	16	~£5.00
Sentiero Bianco NV	15	~£3.50
Sentiero Bianco NV (3 litre box)	13.5	~£3.50
Trulli Chardonnay 1999	16	~£5.00
Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico 2000	16	~£5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Delegat's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	16.5	£7.10
Montana Reserve Pinot Noir 1999	13.5	£7–10
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Cabernet/ Merlot 1998	15	£7–10
Villa Maria Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon/ Merlot 1998	13.5	£13–20

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Delegat's Reserve Chardonnay, Barrel Fermented 1999	16.5	£7–10
Lawsons Dry Hills Chardonnay, Marlborough 1999	16.5	£7–10
Montana Unoaked Chardonnay 2000	16	£5–7
Oyster Bay Marlborough Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5–7
Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£5–7
Villa Maria Reserve Wairau Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16.5	£7–10

PORTUGUESE RED

Bela Fonte Jaen 1999	13	~£5.00
Bright Brothers Trincadeira Preta 1997	14	~£5.00
Falcoaria, Almeira 1997	14.5	£5–7
Miradouro, Terras do Sado 1999	12	~£3.50
Palmela 1998	14.5	£5.00
Tamara Ribetajo 1999	13	~£5.00

PORTUGUESE WHITE

Globus Ribetajo 1999	11	~£5.00
Tamara Ribetajo White 1999	14.5	~£3.50

ROMANIAN RED

Idle Rock Merlot 1998	12	~£5.00

ROMANIAN WHITE

Château Cotnari, Blanc de Cotnari 1998	10	~£5.00

RUSSIAN RED

Caucasus Valley, Matrassa, Georgia 1998	13	£5.00
Odessos Steppe Cabernet Sauvignon, Ukraine 1998	13	£5.00
Tamada Saperavi, Georgia 1998	15.5	£5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Apostle's Falls Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	16.5	£5–7
Arniston Bay Ruby Cabernet/Merlot 1999	13	£5.00
Bellingham Cabernet Franc 1998	13	£10–13
Cape Soleil Organic Pinotage 1998	9	£5.00
Goiya Glaan 1999	16	£5.00
Kanonkop 'Kadette' Estate Wine 1998	15.5	£5–7
Kleinbosch Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	14	£5–7
Landskroon Shiraz, Paarl 1998	15	£5–7
Simsberg Pinot Noir, Paarl 1998	13.5	£5–7
South African Pinotage 2000, Safeway	16	£5.00
Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	14	£5.00
Stellenbosch Merlot 1999	15.5	£5.00
Young Vatted Pinotage, Paarl 1999, Safeway	15	£5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Douglas Green Sauvignon 2000	15.5	£5.00
Echo Bay Colombar 1999	13	£5.00
Fairview Semillon 1999	16	£5–7
Kumala Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00
Lyngrove Chenin Blanc/Colombard 2000	13	£5.00
Neil Ellis Groenekloof Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16.5	£7–10
Sea of Serenity Dry Muscat 2000	12	£3.50
Vale of Peace Colombard 2000	14	£5.00
Versus 2000 (1 litre)	16	£5.00

SPANISH RED

Baltasar Gracian Tempranillo 1999	13	£5.00
Campo Viejo Crianza 1998	12	£5–7
Castillo Ygay Rioja Gran Reserva 1989	13.5	£13–20
Ceremonia, Utiel Requena 1996	16.5	£7–10

Cosme Palacio y Hermanos, Rioja 1998 — 17 — £5–7

Faustino I Gran Reserva 1994 — 11 — £10–13

Faustino V Rioja Reserva 1996 — 12.5 — £9–10

Marqués de Murrieta Reserva Tinto 1997 — 10 — £7–10

Marqués de Riscal Rioja Gran Reserve 1994 — 10 — £13–20

Navasques Navarra 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Siglo 1881 1999 — 10 — £5.00

Valdepeñas Reserva Aged in Oak 1995, Safeway — 15 — £5.00

Young Vatted Tempranillo 1999, Safeway — 15 — £3.50

SPANISH WHITE

El Velero Rosé Valdepeñas 2000 — 12 — £3.50

Faustino V Rioja Crianza NV — 13 — £5–7

Marqués de Murrieta Capellania 1996 — 12 — £7–10

USA RED

Echelon Merlot 1998 — 15 — £7–10

Pacific Coast Ruby Cabernet 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Pepperwood Grove Syrah 1999 — 12.5 — £5–7

USA WHITE

Bonterra Muscat 1999 (half bottle) (organic) — 14 — £5–7

Pacific Coast Chardonnay 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Pyramid Lake Napa Gamay Rosé NV — 8 — £5.00

FORTIFIED

Blandy's Duke of Clarence Rich Madeira — 16 — £7–10

González Byass Tio Pepe Fino Muy Sec NV — 16 — £7–10

Marsala Superiore, Garibalde Dolce NV (18% vol) — 16 — £5–7

Taylor's 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV — 14 — £13–20

Taylor's LBV Port 1995 — 15 — £7–10

Vintage Character Port, Safeway — 13 — £5–7

Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl — 13.5 — £7–10

Warre's Traditional LBV Port 1990 — 16.5 — £13–20

Warre's Warrior Finest Reserve Port NV — 13 — £7–10

SPARKLING

Albert Etienne Champagne Brut Rosé NV, Safeway	10	£13–20
Albert Etienne Champagne Vintage 1995, Safeway	12	£13–20
Asti Spumante NV, Safeway	10	–£5.00
Baron de Moncenay Chardonnay Brut NV	12	–£5.00
Canard Duchêne Champagne Brut NV	14.5	£13–20
Chandon Argentina NV	13	£7–10
Chandon Australia Brut NV	13.5	£7–10
Conde de Caralt Cava Brut NV	10.5	£5–7
Freixenet Cava Rosada Brut NV	11.5	£5–7
Graham Beck Brut NV (South Africa)	12	£5–7
Lambrusco Rosé Light, Safeway (4%vol)	10.5	–£2.50
Le Baron de Moncenay Merlot/Gamay Brut NV	12	–£5.00
Le Monferrine Moscato d'Asti 1999 (5%)	13	–£3.50
Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand)	12	£7–10
Louis Roederer Champagne Brut Premier NV	12	£20+
Piper-Heidsieck Champagne Vintage 1990	12	£20+
Pommery Brut Royal Champagne NV	12	£20+
Seaview Blanc de Blancs 1996	13	£7–10
Séléction XXI, Champagne, Nicolas Feuillatte NV	12	£13–20

SEE STOP-PRESS SECTION AT END OF BOOK FOR LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS OR UPDATES TO THIS RETAILER'S RANGE.

SAINSBURY'S

Now the measure of this retailer is in its response, considered in detail, to my probe: 'What in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' I posed this question to every retailer in this book via e mail (with the exception of Morrisons who prefer carrier pigeons), figuring this was the quickest way. I generously offered a deadline many weeks away. Sainsbury's e-mailed reply came within a fortnight and here it is in its entirety:

'Hi Malcolm. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Our paragraph from Allan Cheesman as follows:

Sainsbury's has a long heritage in wine retailing, starting in the early 1960s. Over the last 40 years, the own label and exclusive ranges have remained a cornerstone of our offer with the clear objective of providing interesting, quality wines which offer excellent value. We have also set out to demystify and popularise wine, and in this respect are leading the industry. Sainsbury's is also very proud of its supplier base around the world and deals in no less than 17 countries with over 200 suppliers.

If you want any further information, please just let me know. With kind regards, Claire Whitehead, SAINSBURY'S.'

The deconstruction of this message, so efficiently and proudly actioned, provides insight into the nature of the enigma this retailer will always be (often to itself). First, there is a clearly identified person, always on the ball (and in Ms Whitehead's case on the ball not only in English but also in French and Italian), to whom I can refer every query and expect a rapid and intelligent response. Second, there is not just the unusual concern that a delay of ten days might be impolite but a positive recognition that it is not the way the e mailer, or her employer, likes to do business. Third, no one else in British supermarketing could have said what Mr Cheesman – Sainsbury's director of wine – said, and it provides us with further rich grist. Sainsbury's does have a great tradition with wine. It does have terrific own label wines. It has tried to take the stuffiness out of the often ritualised subject of wine (in the past it published many worthy own-label wine books edited by Oz Clarke), and its suppliers are amongst the best there are.

However, all that said, Sainsbury's has suffered from a lapse in its once all conquering fortunes, and only in the past year or so has it seemed to me to be making real inroads in sorting itself out, and is now much faster on its feet. It has had to be. The competition provides immense pressure and in the old days Sainsbury's required too much time to think; now it is beginning to react instinctively and more wisely. This, apart from anything else, must make the business a more exciting and satisfying place to work in, and indeed to shop in. In April 2001, Sainsbury's revealed that sales were up by nearly 5% – its best performance for some years.

In some ways, the turn around began with Sainsbury's announcement, in spring 2000, that the so-called naked chef, Jamie Oliver, would front its new ad campaign. Very shortly, this paid publicity dividends when the gorgeous Fat Lady, Clarissa Dickson Wright, had a go at this campaign, on the grounds that Mr Oliver did not shop at Sainsbury's. The chef retorted that he did not shop there for ingredients for his restaurant.

However, with the opening of the first of 30 Sainsbury's flagship 'beacon' stores, based on the design of its refurbished branch on the Cromwell Road in west London (which boasts a Yo Sushi bar), the new broom heading the company, Sir Peter Davis, had something to flaunt. He remarked that the tarting up of these 'beacon' stores would take place during the coming year and also announced plans to revamp 200 stores, almost half its number, over the next year. The Cromwell Road branch, where it was said Princess Di sometimes shopped, boasted a full time wine manager and planned to run daily in-store tastings. Sainsbury's later claimed to want to invest £500 million in developing 27 new stores in London over the next three years, creating 3,000 jobs. Other, more innovative developments followed. In one of them, Sainsbury's became the first high street chain to offer pension rights to homosexual employees' partners, also granting them access to share options, healthcare and staff discounts.

Sainsbury's new shopping trolleys also broke new ground, resulting in several customers being shocked. It was reported that 1,200 of the trolleys had to be returned to the manufacturer after they gave customers alarming tingles. It appeared that on certain types of floor the wheels allowed the build up of static electricity.

Wine commentators, however, experienced a particular shock of their own. This was occasioned by the announcement that Sainsbury's and Oddbins were to launch a joint direct wine venture in spring 2001. 'What,' I was asked constantly by members of the trade and other wine writers, 'can this be all about?' I was able to offer no great insight. Perhaps this was

exactly why Mr Cheesman was re-hired to provide this sort of idea and the management dynamics to back it up? He had been at Sainsbury's for more than a quarter of a century when he quit a while back to help run BRL Hardy in the UK, but it was the persuasive Peter Davis who lured him back.

The first fruits of the new Destination Wine joint venture between the two retailers were seen in stores from February. Limited displays of wines offering by-the-case deals under the Taste for Wine banner went into 100 Sainsbury's and 50 Oddbins branches. Reporting this marriage in early 2001, the trade paper *Off Licence News* said that the links between the retailers were strengthened because they were effectively selling each other's own-label and exclusive label wines in their stores. *OLN* also pointed out that the launch of the joint venture had led to speculation that Sainsbury's might make a bid for Oddbins – a temptation Sainsbury's has claimed firmly to have resisted. Once the e-tailing website, *tasteforwine.co.uk*, was up and running it offered a free bottle for every case bought. Some of these free bottles represented fantastic bargains, but not all. One particular example, a Viognier, struck me as the least elegant expression of this grape that I had yet tasted but other bottles were definitely worth having.

Sainsbury's interest in Green issues was highlighted by the plan to install a commercial wind turbine at its distribution centre in Kilbride, Scotland. A spokesperson said that renewable energy was an increasingly important issue for Sainsbury's and went on to say that the turbine would provide 25% to 40% of the energy required at the 25,000 sq ft depot. This did not, however, prevent environmental protesters chaining themselves to a lorry at another Sainsbury's distribution centre in a protest against the distribution of genetically modified meat and dairy products.

Then the research group, IMRG, dubbed the Sainsbury's website, *Sainsburystoyou.com*, the worst among the major UK grocers. Sainsbury's was awarded only one star out of a possible five, with Asda and Tesco scoring much better. (If Sainsbury's website designer wants to know how to design a website, may I suggest she goes to *superplonk.com*?) On a more positive note, Sainsbury's became the first supermarket chain to become a corporate member of the Plain English Campaign which aims to tackle confusing and jargon laden language. This presumably means that Sainsbury's wine department's habit of using quotes from wine writers to draw attention to well regarded wines may have to be revised, when did you last read a wine writer whose language was 'jargon free'?

Overall, then, a year of rebuilding for this retailer and no less so in its

wine department though it continues to search for new places for interesting wines. A year or so back I claimed that Sainsbury's might stock a Zimbabwean rosé but nothing came of it, but further north on the same continent there were more successful acquisitions. Sainsbury's wine buyer for North Africa, Rachel Hibbert, was reported as saying that her patch was definitely 'an area to watch' and, lo and behold, a wine from Tunisia and three from Morocco appeared on Sainsbury's shelves

If vines were discovered on the slopes of an active Siberian volcano you can be sure that a British supermarket wine buyer would turn up there sniffing around and odds on that the buyer would be from Sainsbury's.

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited
33 Holborn
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Tel 0800 636262 Customer Careline
www.sainsburys.co.uk

ARGENTINIAN RED

Alamos Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 13.5 £5–7

Bright Brothers Barrica Cabernet Shiraz 1999 13 £5–7

Finca el Retiro Bonarda 2000 14.5 £5–7

La Nature Organic Barbera 2000 14 £5.00

Mendoza Cabernet Sauvignon/Malbec NV, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5.00

Mendoza Country Red NV, Sainsbury's 13 £3.50

Santa Julia Tempranillo 2000 13.5 £5.00

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00

Mendoza Chardonnay, Tupungato Region NV, Sainsbury's 13 £5.00

Mendoza Country White NV, Sainsbury's 14.5 £3.50

AUSTRALIAN RED

Australian Shiraz NV, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5.00

Banrock Station Mataro Shiraz NV, (3 litre box) 13 £5.00

Hardys Stamp Cabernet Merlot 2000 13.5 £5.00

Jacobs Creek Reserve Shiraz 1998	14	£7–10
Nottage Hill Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz 1999	16	£5–7
Petaluma Bridgewater Mill Shiraz 1998	16.5	£7–10
Rosemount Estate Shiraz 1998	15.5	£7–10
Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	14	£7–10

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Australian Chardonnay NV, Sainsbury's	13.5	£3.00
Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay Semillon (3 litre box)	15	£9.00
Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£5.00
Penfolds Botrytis Semillon 1998 (half bottle)	15	£5–7
Rosemount Estate GTR [illegible]	15	£5–7
Rosemount Estate Show Reserve Chardonnay 1999	16	£7–10
Stowells of Chelsea Australian Chardonnay NV (3 litre box)	13.5	£3.50

BULGARIAN RED

Blue Ridge 617 Merlot 1999	14	£5.00
Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon, Sainsbury's (3 litre box)	13.5	£3.50
Bulgarian Merlot NV, Sainsbury's	13.5	£3.50

CHILEAN RED

Caliboro Carignan Old Vine Reserva 2000	14	£5.00
Chilean Cabernet Merlot NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box)	16	£5.00
Chilean Merlot NV, Sainsbury's	16.5	£5.00
Concha y Toro Casillero del Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	17	£5.00
Cono Sur 20 Barrels Merlot 1999	16.5	£10–13
Cono Sur Reserva Merlot 1999	16.5	£5–7
Errázuriz Merlot 2000	16	£5–7
Errázuriz Pinot Noir Reserva 1999	17	£7–10
Isla Negra Syrah 2000	16	£5–7
La Palmeria Merlot Gran Reserva 1999	18.5	£7–10
MontGras Carmenère Reserva 1999	16	£5–7

Terra Mater Zinfandel Shiraz 2000 14 £5.00

Valdivieso Malbec 2000 15 £5.00

Valdivieso Merlot 2000 16 £5.00

CHILEAN WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay NV, Sainsbury's 16 £5.00

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV, Sainsbury's 16.5 £5.00

Errázuriz Wild Ferment Chardonnay, Casablanca 1999 17 £7–10

MontGras Chardonnay Reserva 1999 15.5 £5–7

MontGras Chardonnay Reserva 2000 15 £5–7

Stowells Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV (3 litre box) 15.5 £3.50

ENGLISH WHITE

Chapel Down Premium Medium Dry 1999 12.5 £5.00

Chapel Down Schonburger 1999 13 £5–7

FRENCH RED

Beaujolais NV, Sainsbury's 13.5 £5.00

Beaujolais-Villages Les Roches Grillées 1999 12 £5–7

Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Louis Max 1999 13 £5–7

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc NV, Sainsbury's 16 £3.50

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) 14.5 £3.50

Celliers des Dauphins Côtes du Rhône 2000 14.5 £5.00

Château Barreyres Cru Bourgeois, Haut-Médoc 1998 14 £7–10

Château Cazal-Viel St-Chinian Larmes des Fées 1998 13.5 £13–20

Château Coufran Cru Bourgeois, Haut-Médoc 1996 13 £10–13

Château Fonreaud Cru Bourgeois, Listrac 1998 13.5 £10–13

Château Gaubert, Corbières 2000 15.5 £5.00

Château la Tour Carnet, Haut-Médoc 1998 16 £13–20

Château La Vieille Curé Fronsac 1997 16.5 £10–13

Château Moulin Canon-Fronsac 1996 16.5 £7–10

Château Semeillan Mazeau Cru Bourgeois, Listrac 1996 14 £13–20

Château Tassin Premières Côtes de Bordeaux 1999 15 £5.00

Claret Cuvée Prestige, Sainsbury's	16	£5.00
Claret, Sainsbury's	15	£3.50
Claret, Sainsbury's (3 litre box)	15.5	£5.00
Classic Selection Brouilly 1999, Sainsbury's	13	£5–7
Classic Selection Châteauneuf-du-Pape 1998, Sainsbury's	15	£7–10
Classic Selection St-Emilion 1998, Sainsbury's	15.5	£7–10
Côtes du Rhône NV, Sainsbury's	13.5	£3.50
Côtes du Rhône NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box)	15.5	£3.50
Crozes-Hermitage Cave de Tain 1999	16.5	£5–7
Crozes-Hermitage Petite Ruche 1997	15.5	£7–10
Devereux Portan/ Carignan, VdP de l'Aude 2000	14.5	£3.50
Domaine de Mas Blanc Coulhoure 'Les Cosprons Levant' 1997	10	£13–20
Domaine des Bouziers Cabernet Franc VdP d'Oc 2000	16.5	£5.00
Domaine Ellul-Ferrières Vignes VdP d'Oc 1998	17	£5–7
Eliane's Single Vineyard Corbières 'Gruissan' 2000	16	£5.00
Eliane's Single Vineyard Minervois 2000	16	£5.00
Fitou 'Les Douzes' Mont Tauch 1998	15.5	£5–7
Fleurie La Madone 2000	14	£7–10
French Revolution Le Rouge 1999	16	£5.00
Gevrey-Chambertin Rodet 1998	11	£13–20
Hautes-Côtes de Nuits Dames Huguettes 1998	13.5	£7–10
Héritage du Rhône 1999	13.5	£5.00
Jacques Frelin Crozes-Hermitage 1999 (organic)	13	£7–10
La Chasse du Pape Côtes du Rhône 1999	14	£5.00
Le Catalan Old Vine Carignan 2000	16	13.5
Le Catalan Old Vine Grenache 2000	16.5	£5–7
Le Midi Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	17	£5.00
Le Midi Merlot 2000	16.5	£5.00
Le Véritable Laurent Miquel Syrah Mourvèdre VdP d'Oc 2000	15	£5.00

Les Cassagnes Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Louis Bernard Côtes du Rhône-Villages 1999 — 16.5 — £6.00

Marsannay Domaine Bertagna 1998 — 16 — £7–10

Mercurey Clos La Marche 1997 — 13 — £13–20

Merlot VdP dé La Cité de Carcassonne, Caroline de Beaulieu 2000 — 15.5 — £7.00

Minervois 2000, Sainsbury's — 14.5 — £3.50

Old Git Grenache Syrah 1999 — 15.5 — £5.00

Red Burgundy NV, Sainsbury's — 12 — £5–7

Regnié Duboeuf 1999 — 11 — £5–7

Réserve du Général, Margaux 1997 — 15 — £13–20

Spécial Réserve Claret, Sainsbury's — 16 — £5.00

Stowells of Chelsea Merlot VdP d'Oc (3 litre box) — 15 — £3.50

Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000, Sainsbury's (organic) — 13 — £5.00

Valréas Domaine de La Grande Bellane 1999 (organic) — 14.5 — £5–7

Van Rouge, VdP de Vaucluse NV — 15 — £3.50

Vin de Pays des Bouches du Rhône NV, Sainsbury's — 14.5 — £3.50

Vin Rouge de France NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 13 — £5.50

FRENCH WHITE

Ackerman Anjou Blanc 2000 (organic) — 14.5 — £5.00

Antonin Rodet Meursault 1998 — 12 — £13–20

Big Frank's Deep Pink 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Bordeaux Blanc, Sainsbury's — 15.5 — £3.50

Bourgogne Chardonnay, Louis Max 1999 — 15.5 — £5–7

Chablis Calvet 1999 — 14 — £5–7

Chablis Premier Cru Côtes de Jouan, Brocard 1999 — 16 — £10–13

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV, Sainsbury's (organic) — 15.5 — £5.00

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 15.5 — £3.50

Château de Rully Blanc, Rodet 1998 — 13 — £10–13

Château Tassin Bordeaux Clairet 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

Classic Sélection Chablis Domaine Sainte Cecil 1999, Sainsbury's — 16 — £7–10

Classic Sélection Pouilly-Fumé 2000, Sainsbury's — 16 — £7–10

Classic Sélection Sancerre 2000, Sainsbury's — 15.5 — £7–10

Condrieu Guigal 1998 — 15.5 — £13–20

Cuvée Victoria Rosé de Provence 2000 — 14.5 — £5–7

Domaine de Pellehaut Côtes de Gascogne 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Domaine de Sours Bordeaux Rosé 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Domaine Leonce Cuisset, Saussignac 1998 (50cl) — 15.5 — £5–7

Duo Rosé d'Anjou and Anjou Blanc NV (3 litre box) — 14.5 — £3.50

French Revolution Le Blanc 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Le MD de Bourgeois Sancerre 1999 — 15 — £10–13

Le Midi Rosé, Languedoc 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Le Midi Viognier 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Mercurey Blanc Domaine La Marche les Rochelles 1998 — 14 — £13–20

Meursault Clos de Mazeray, Domaine Jacques Prieur 1998 — 11 — £20+

Mouton Cadet Blanc 1999 — 12 — £5–7

Numero Un Bordeaux Blanc 2000 — 13.5 — £2.00

Petit Chablis Jean Brocard NV (3 litre box) — 15.5 — £5.00

Picpoul de Pinet 'Les Flacons' Coteaux du Languedoc 1999 — 16 — £10–13

Puilly-Fuissé Georges Duboeuf 1998 — 13.5 — £10–13

Réserve St-Marc Sauvignon Blanc, VdP d'Oc 2000 — 16.5 — £5.00

Touraine Sauvignon Le Chalutier 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Van Blanc, VdP de Vaucluse NV — 14.5 — £3.50

Vin Blanc de France, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 12 — £3.50

Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 15 — £3.50

Vouvray La Couronne des Plantagenets 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

White Burgundy NV, Sainsbury's — 14 — £5–7

GERMAN WHITE

Devil's Rock Masterpiece, St Ursula 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Dr Pauly Riesling 1999 — 13 — £5–7

Hock, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 14.5 — £3.50

Liebfraumilch,, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 14 — £3.50

Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese 1999 — 15.5 — £5.00

Querbach Hallgartener Schonhell Rheingau Riesling 1997 — 16 — £5–7

Schloss Wallhausen Riesling Kabinett 1999 — 16 — £7–10

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Hungarian Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé NV, Sainsbury's — 11 — £3.50

ITALIAN RED

A Mano Primitivo Puglia 2000 — 15.5 — £5–7

Alario Barolo Riva 1995 — 10 — £20+

Alessandra Colonna Barbera del Monferrato 1998 — 13.5 — £13–20

Allora Negroamaro 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Araldica Albera Barbera d'Asti Superior, Piemonte 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Barbera d'Alba Fontanelle, Ascheri 1999 — 16.5 — £7–10

Barco Reale di Carmignano Capezzana 1999 — 16 — £7–10

Barking Mad 15% Primitivo 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Barolo Cantine Rocca Ripalta 1995 — 15 — £10–13

Chianti la Capannuccia 1999 — 14.5 — £3.50

Classic Selection Barolo 1996, Sainsbury's — 13.5 — £10–13

Classic Selection Chianti Classico 1997, Sainsbury's — 15.5 — £5–7

Emporio Nero d'Avola Merlot 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Inycon Syrah 2000 (Sicily) — 16 — £5.00

Morellino di Scansano Riserva 1997 — 16 — £7–10

Natio Organic Chianti, Cecchi 1998 — 13.5 — £5–7

Poliziano Rosso di Montepulciano 1999 — 15.5 — £7–10

Promessa Rosso Salento 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Rosso di Provincia di Verona NV, Sainsbury's — 12 — £3.50

Sangiovese di Sicilia 2000, Sainsbury's — 13.5 — £5.00

Sicilia Red, Sainsbury's — 15 — £3.50

Teuzzo Chianti Classico 1998 — 15 — £5–7

Valpolicella, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 12 — £3.50

ITALIAN WHITE

Bianco di Provincia di Verona NV, Sainsbury's — 14 — £3.50

Ca'Donini Bianco di Custoza 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Classic Selection Pinot Grigio 2000, Sainsbury's — 15 — £5–7

Figli di Augusto Pinot Bianco 2000 — 15.5 — £5–7

Grecanico di Sicilia 2000, Sainsbury's — 13.5 — £5.00

Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily) — 16 — £3.00

Orvieto Classico Amabile le Cimmelle 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Pinot Grigio Veneto Borgo Paveri 2000 (organic) — 14.5 — £5.00

Sartori Organic Soave 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Sicilian White, Sainsbury's — 13.5 — £3.50

Soave, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 15 — £3.50

Villa Bianchi Verdicchio Classico dei Castelli di Jesi 2000 — 16 — £5.00

MOROCCAN RED

Baraka Private Reserve Cabernet Merlot 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Moroccan Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Sainsbury's — 13.5 — £5.00

Moroccan Syrah 2000, Sainsbury's — 14.5 — £5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Montana East Coast Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 1999 — 15 — £5–7

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Shingle Peak Pinot Gris, Marlborough 2000 — 13.5 — £5–7

The Sanctuary Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 17 — £5–7

PORTUGUESE RED

Quinta de Bons-Ventos 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Quinta do Crasto 1999 — 15.5 — £5–7

Segada Trincadeira Preta-Castelao 2000 — 12 — £5.00

ROMANIAN RED

Prahova Valley Reserve Pinot Noir 1999	14	£5.00
Romanian Pinot Noir NV, Sainsbury's	13.5	£3.50

ROMANIAN WHITE

Romanian Merlot Rosé NV, Sainsbury's	14	£3.50

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Bellingham Pinotage 1999	13	£5.00
Clos Malverne Cabernet Sauvignon Pinotage 1999	13	£5–7
Flagship Vergelegen Bordeaux Blend 1998	14	£13–20
Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000	14	£5.00
Graham Beck Merlot 1999	13	£5–7
Kumala Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000	16	£5.00
Kumala Cabernet Shiraz NV (3 litre box)	15.5	£5.00
Railroad Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000	13	£5.00
South African Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Sainsbury's	15.5	£5.00
South African Pinotage NV, Sainsbury's	12	£5.00
South African Red NV, Sainsbury's	15	£3.50
South African Reserve Selection Pinotage 2000, Sainsbury's	16	£5–7
Spice Route Andrew's Hope Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1999	16.5	£5–7
Spice Route Pinotage 1999	18	£7–10
SSW Ruby Cabernet NV (1 litre)	14	£5.00
Stowells of Chelsea Cinsault Pinotage Sainsbury (3 litre box)	15.5	£5.00
Vergelegen Merlot 1998	13	£10–13

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Bellingham Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5–7
Kumala Chardonnay NV (3 litre box)	16.5	£5.00
Pendulum Chardonnay (3 litre box)	15	£5.00
Pendulum Rosé (3 litre box)	14	£5.00
Reserve Selection South African Sauvignon Blanc 2001, Sainsbury's	15.5	£5–7
Rhona Muscadel 1996	16	£5–7
South African Chardonnay 2001, Sainsbury's	15.5	£5.00

South African Chenin Blanc NV, Sainsbury's — 14 — £3.50

South African Chenin Blanc NV, Sainsbury's (3 litre box) — 14.5 — £3.50

South African Medium White NV, Sainsbury's — 13 — £3.50

SSW Chardonnay Chenin Blanc 1999 (1 litre) — 12 — £5.00

Vergelegen Chardonnay 2000 — 14 — £5–7

SPANISH RED

Alteza 600 Old Vines Garnacha NV — 16 — £5.00

Alteza 750 Tempranillo NV — 16 — £5.00

Alteza Tempranillo Cabernet Sauvignon La Mancha 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Dama de Toro 1998 — 15.5 — £5.00

Epulum Rioja Crianza, Bodegas Olarra 1998 — 13.5 — £5–7

Jumilla NV, Sainsbury's — 15.5 — £5.00

Navarra NV, Sainsbury's — 16 — £5.00

Ochoa Gran Reserva, Navarra 1993 — 16 — £10–13

Ondarre Reserva Rioja 1996 — 15 — £7–10

Stowells of Chelsea Tempranillo NV (3 litre box) — 13 — £3.50

Valencia Oak Aged NV, Sainsbury's — 13.5 — £5.00

Viña Albali Gran Reserva 1993 — 15 — £5–7

Viña Ardanza Rioja Reserva 1994 — 13.5 — £10–13

TUNISIAN RED

Accademia del Sole Carignan 2000 — 11 — £5–7

URUGUAYAN RED

Bright Brothers Merlot/Tannat 1998 — 14 — £5.00

Don Pascual Reserve Tannat 2000 — 16 — £5–7

USA RED

Blossom Hill Californian Red NV — 10 — £5.00

Buckeye Vineyard Single Vineyard Series Cabernet Sauvignon, Kendall Jackson 1996 — 16.5 — £13–20

Four Vines Paso Robles Zinfandel 1997 — 11 — £7–10

Kendall Jackson Vintners Reserve Pinot Noir 1998 — 16 — £7–10

La Crema Pinot Noir 1998 — 16 — £10–13

Marc Xero Merlot 1999 — 14 — £5.00

USA WHITE

Blossom Hill NV 10 £5.00

Bonterra Muscat 1999 (half bottle) (organic) 14 £5–7

Fetzer Valley Oaks Rosé 2000 13.5 £5–7

Kendall Jackson Single Vineyard Series Camelot Chardonnay 1998 13 £10–13

Kendall Jackson Vintners Reserve Chardonnay 1998 13 £7–10

Sutter Home Gewürztraminer 2000 14 £5.00

Sutter Home Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14 £5.00

FORTIFIED

Cockburn's 10 Year Old Tawny Port (half bottle) 13.5 £7–10

Cockburn's Light White Port 14.5 £7–10

Dow's LBV Port 1995 14.5 £7–10

Dow's Quinta do Bonfim Vintage Port 1987 16.5 £13–20

Fino Sherry, Sainsbury's 16 £5.00

Fonseca Bin No 27 Fine Reserve Port NV 13 £7–10

González Byass Apostoles NV (half bottle) 16.5 £10–13

González Byass Matusalem NV (half bottle) 17 £10–13

Graham's 20 Year Old Tawny Port 14 £20+

Graham's LBV Port 1994 13.5 £10–13

Hidalgo Manzanilla la Gitana NV 16 £5–7

Manzanilla, Sainsbury's 15.5 £5.00

Sainsbury's LBV Port 1992 15.5 £7–10

Solear Manzanilla NV 16 £5–7

Tawny Port, Sainsbury's 13 £5–7

Taylor's 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 14 £13–20

Taylor's 20 Year Old Tawny Port NV 12 £20+

Taylor's LBV Port 1995 15 £7–10

Taylors Vintage Port 1985 16 £20+

Ten Year Old Tawny Port, Sainsbury's 14 £10–13

Tio Pepe Sherry 15.5 £7–10

Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port (50cl) 19.5 £7–10

Warre's Traditional LBV Port 1990 16.5 £13–20

Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV	13	£7–10

SPARKLING

Banrock Station Sparkling Shiraz NV (Australia)	16.5	£7–10
Blanc de Noirs Champagne NV, Sainsbury's	16	£10–13
Canard Duchêne Champagne Brut NV	14.5	£13–20
Cava Brut NV, Sainsbury's (Spain)	16.5	£5.00
Cava NV, Sainsbury's (Spain) (1.5 litres)	16	£5.00
Cava Rosado Brut, Sainsbury's (Spain)	15	£5.00
Champagne Blanc de Blancs 1997, Sainsbury's	13	£13–20
Champagne Boizel Chardonnay NV	16	£13–20
Champagne Charles Heidsieck Mis en Cave 1995	13	£20+
Champagne Demi Sec NV, Sainsbury's	14	£10–13
Champagne Duval Leroy 1995	13	£13–20
Champagne E. Barnaut Blanc de Noirs NV	15.5	£13–20
Champagne Franck Bonville Blanc de Blancs NV	14.5	£13–20
Champagne Lanson Black Label Brut NV	13.5	£13–20
Champagne Laurent-Perrier NV	13.5	£20+
Champagne Louis Roederer NV	19	£20+
Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte Premier Cru NV	14	£13–20
Champagne Palmer 1982	16	£13–20
Champagne Perrier-Jouet Belle Epoque 1995	15	£20+
Champagne Perrier-Jouet NV	14	£20+
Champagne Pommery Brut Royal NV	13	£20+
Champagne Premier Cru Extra Dry NV, Sainsbury's	14	£13–20
Chardonnay Brut, Méthode Traditionelle, Sainsbury's (France)	15	£5–7
Freixenet Cava Rosada NV	13.5	£5–7
Grand Cru Millennium Champagne 1995, Sainsbury's	13	£13–20
Green Gold Brut Organic Vin Mousseux NV (France)	13.5	£5–7

Hardys Nottage Hill Chardonnay Brut 1998	15	£5–7
Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay/ Pinot Noir Brut NV	14	£5–7
Inanda Brut NV (South Africa)	15	£5.00
Krug Grande Cuvée NV	10	£20+
Millennium Vintage Cava 1997, Sainsbury's (Spain)	13	£5–7
Mumm Champagne Brut NV	13	£13–20
Piper-Heidsieck Brut NV	15	£13–20
Trudon Champagne Festigny Cuvée Sélection NV	18	£13–20
Vin Mousseux Brut, Sainsbury's (France)	13	£5.00

SOMERFIELD/KWIK SAVE

The partners in this marriage have settled down together but have kept their separate names Early rumours that Kwik Save would cease to exist have proved groundless. It is necessary to lump them together, however, since the same wine department, headed by the quinlingual Mrs Angela Mount, runs both operations and many wines are found at both places In the entries which follow this introduction, any distinctions necessary are clearly made. As far as I know, Mrs Mount is the only supermarket wine buyer who can swear at her suppliers in English, German, French, Italian and Spanish small wonder she acquires bargains in all these places (excluding England where no wine bargains grow).

This retailer's answer to the question pervading this book – 'What in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' – was answered thus

'Dear Malcolm,

Sorry to have taken so long to reply – work, children, etc etc . . . !

I believe that the strength of our wine range and wine selection lies in the high level of quality at any given price point within the range. Our stores are in high street locations, and therefore fixture sizes are often more limited than out-of-town superstore sites. This means that we have a smaller range but, as a result, a range which needs to work harder for us we cannot hide our basic generics behind a vast range of glitzy premium or off-the wall wines; we have a wide selection, including both the premium and off-the wall elements. However the core of our business is in the under £5 market and, as you are well aware whilst the average retail price point for wine is moving upwards, the average purchase price is still around the £3.50 mark

Therefore our mission is to put the very best product possible into each of those bottles under £5 (and indeed over £5, although the job is easier here) – we want our basic South African red and white to be the best in the market same story with all basic generics from Claret, to Sicilian white, to Australian red. So we work closely with producers to ensure that our customers can trust our choice and rely on our selection, whatever the price point. The focus of our range and our selection criteria is always to seek the very best at each price

point, and in each category of style/country/area, and as you know I work closely with producers to ensure we hit exactly the right style. We want our customers to be able to trust our selection and buy in confidence, knowing that, whatever the price point, or whatever the promotional offer, the product will meet, or exceed their expectations.

Looking forward to seeing you at our tasting next Friday. I checked out a few restaurants close to the agency for lunch, but I suggest that once you have finished tasting, we jump in a cab and head for a restaurant in Primrose Hill – please let me know if you have a preference.

See you next week, and hope you are well, Angela.'

And so we learn a good deal about Mrs Mount as a person (and discover she is the dedicated mother of young children who has to juggle her life accordingly) and as a highly focused wine buyer. We are given insight into the ruthlessly competitive world of Somerfield and learn that Bristol based Somerfield has a design and PR agency in a trendy area of London. And we are given a peek into the cushy life of the metropolitan wine critic who, after a lazy morning spent merely exercising his cheek muscles spitting out wine and his wrist noting down his impressions of same, is fully prepared to have his lunch purchased for him (and tasting 125 wines in a morning does give a chap a healthy appetite) which he will consume with a chosen bottle from which he will deeply quaff.

You might ask this. does Mrs Mount's subsidising my wining and dining in this way constitute a bribe or a conflict of interest? How close can a critic get to the source of what he criticises? I have pondered these questions regularly since becoming a wine critic and whilst I refuse all offers of corporate hospitality I recognise that if I did not socialise in a limited way with wine producers and wine retailers I would understand far less than I do about the professional world I inhabit. Wine is a convivial product and its makers and merchants convivial people If I were a football correspondent I would have to draw the line at lunching with the chairman of Manchester United and I could hardly ask Mr and Mrs Beckham to dinner but I have discovered, after 12 years of writing on wine, that I cannot draw such hard distinctions If you want to read my thoughts on these matters at greater length please go to *superplonk com* and access the 'Superplonk World of Wine' section where I examine conflicts of interest in considerable detail.

And this was supposed to be an intro to Somerfield that I am supposed to be examining in detail. Well, shall we start by going back a few years? Just as Turkey in diplomatic circles of the last century was said to be the

sick man of Europe so Somerfield, in the supermarketing sector, was said to be the sick man of supermarketing (the gender implications of both these sneers need not detain us here).

However, it has recovered. Its boss, John von Spreckelsen, told the Somerfield AGM last year that sales at both Kwik Save and Somerfield had 'stabilised' – a euphemism beloved of retailers for while it does not claim that sales are going up, it equally does not convey the grim news that sales are going down. There is something Pickwickian about such matters and I do not pretend to understand them.

I do know, though, that axing the loyalty card scheme, as Somerfield did in early 2001, claiming, like Asda and Safeway, that such schemes have lost credibility among shoppers, was an interesting move for it showed, if any further proof were necessary, that what keeps customers loyal is not cards but value for money – in the trolley. In this regard, Ms Mount's department has proved exemplary and a constant thorn in its competitors' sides with offers on wines which have defied commercial logic until it is pointed out that selling certain bottles at less than you paid for them attracts thousands of new customers into the stores, and many of them then decide to do the weekly shop there. From my letters from *Guardian* readers, I can confidently state that this strategy works.

On the Kwik Save front, the stores received a complete revamp, more than just a fresh lick of paint, in a bid to turn around the discount chain's fortunes A Mr Graham Maguire was appointed managing director (no reports of him being seen with a paint brush)

Sales at the revamped KS stores were reported to have increased by an average of 5% on the previous year Out of the initial group of 200 stores, identified for the redesign, some 26 have been revamped, with completion of all 200 due by April 2001. Somerfield were said to be very optimistic about the future of KS 'as a concept' after the uplift. What will happen to the remaining 550 stores after the initial 200 have received their going over? I have no idea Interestingly, though, in early 2001 I read a report that some Kwik Save stores, converted to the Somerfield format in the past two years, would now be returned to their original Kwik Save fascias. At the same time, the launch of a range of Kwik Save own label products (some 250 strong) was announced. As this is a chain traditionally bothered only about selling brands rather than any own labels, this is a move with many interesting implications. Somerfield's own label £2.99 Claret already rates highly in this book, so can we anticipate a Kwik Save own-label Claret at £2.29? It'll turn up on my doorstep one day.

As did Kwik Save staff on the doorstep of its great rival Iceland. As part of its price spat with Iceland, certain brave Kwik Save employees were persuaded to dress up in penguin suits and deploy themselves outside its rival's stores to distribute promotional leaflets. The initiative was, apparently, designed to lampoon an Iceland TV campaign in which three actors appeared dressed as penguins. Iceland condemned the Kwik Save idea as 'underhand'.

On other fronts, Somerfield joined the supermarket price war with the announcement of a major investment behind its Megadeals price promotion initiative. The Megadeals scheme, which had already undergone trials at selected stores, will be supported by a £1 million ad campaign. This sum, exceedingly modest by retail ad-spend standards (not to say parsimonious), is further proof that Somerfield has tightened its financial belt and considers every penny in its pockets.

This was the reason it was said to be quitting the rag trade only a few months after it introduced a clothing range in eight of its stores. The retailer said it wanted 'to concentrate on its core food offer'. In other words, it is sticking to what it knows best and not venturing into tricky areas. In this sense, Somerfield is a deeply conservative retailer and will, I suggest, remain so.

More evidence of this? Having announced in February that it intended to invest some £500 million in price cuts over the next 12 months, it launched a 'Buy One Get Two Free' promotion, claiming that it was the first time such an offer had been made by a high street retailer. This may well be true but this past year I can't seem to buy any little thing (eg AAA batteries for my chess computer and shampoo for my hair at Boots) without the assistant telling me, in that bored way which hints at supreme customer stupidity, that if I go back to the shelf and help myself to another one of the same product I can have both for the price of one.

By July 2001, Mr von Spreckelsen's various strategies seemed to be succeeding: he announced that like-for-like sales were growing at Somerfield for the first time in three years. Its operating profits were up. Similarly its share price (from a low of 49p at one point it had ascended to around 135p, as this book was heading to the printer).

It's been a slow grind at Somerfield, but it's beginning to pay off. In late spring, the company finally completed the conversion of its remaining 21 Gateway stores. These stores had not been updated since the acquisition of Gateway 12 years ago. Twelve years to tart up a store?

It defies belief. But then so do some of Angela's wine prices. And as far as this commentator is concerned that's all that matters.

Somerfield/Kwik Save
Somerfield House
Hawkfield Business Park
Whitchurch Lane
Bristol
BS14 0TJ

Tel 0117 935 6669 Customer Service Line
Fax 0117 935 6293
www.somerfield.co.uk

ARGENTINIAN RED

Argentine Red 2000, Somerfield	15	£3.50
Argentine Sangiovese 2000, Somerfield	16.5	£5.00
Argentine Tempranillo 2000, Somerfield	16	£5.00
Argento Malbec 2000	17.5	£5.00
Bright Brothers Barrica Cabernet Shiraz 1999	16	£5–7
Bright Brothers Barrica Shiraz 1999	15.5	£5–7
Bright Brothers San Juan Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	16	£5–7
Santa Julia Oaked Tempranillo 2000	16.5	£5.00
Trivento Syrah 2000	16	£5.00

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Argentine Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield	15.5	£5.00
Bright Brothers San Juan Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5–7
Etchart Torrontes Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00
La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000	14	£5.00
Q Chardonnay, La Agricola 1999	15.5	£7–10
Santa Julia Syrah Rosé 2001	15	£5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Australian Shiraz Cabernet 2000, Somerfield	14	£5.00
Banrock Station Shiraz/Mataro 2000	15	£5.00
Encounter Bay Merlot 1999	13	£5–7
Encounter Bay Shiraz 1999	13.5	£5–7

Hardys Nottage Hill Cabernet Sauvignon/ Shiraz 1999	16.5	£5–7
Hardys Tintara Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	15	£7–10
Jacobs Creek Grenache Shiraz 2000	13.5	~£5.00
Jacobs Creek Merlot 2000	13	£5–7
Jindalee Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	14	~£5.00
Lindemans Cawarra Shiraz/Cabernet 1999	13	~£5.00
Masterpeace Red 2000	14	~£5.00
Normans Estates Lone Gum Cabernet Merlot 2000	12	~£5.00
Normans Old Vines Shiraz 1999	16.5	£5–7
Omrah Plantagenet Shiraz 1999	14	£7–10
Penfolds Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz 1998	15	£7–10
Penfolds Koonunga Hill Shiraz 1999	13	£5–7
Rosemount Estate Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	14	£5–7
Secession Xanadu Shiraz Cabernet 2000	14	£5–7
Tortoiseshell Bay Mourvedre Shiraz 2000	12	~£5.00
Wakefield Promised Land Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	12	£5–7

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Banrock Station Chardonnay 2000	15	~£5.00
Banrock Station Colombard Chardonnay 2001	14	~£5.00
Cudgee Creek Chardonnay Colombard 2000	16	~£5.00
Deakin Estate Chardonnay 2000	15.5	~£5.00
Hardys Nottage Hill Chardonnay 2000	16	£5–7
Hardys Stamp of Australia Riesling Gewürztraminer 2001	14	~£5.00
Hardys Stamp Semillon/Chardonnay 2000	14.5	~£5.00
Hardys Tintara Chardonnay 2000	13	£7–10
Jacobs Creek Chardonnay 2000	15	~£5.00
Jindalee Chardonnay 2000	16	~£5.00
Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 2000	16	£5–7
Lindemans Botrytis Riesling 1998 (half bottle)	15	£5–7

Lindemans Cawarra Unoaked Chardonnay 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Penfolds Bin 21 Rawson's Retreat Semillon/Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Penfolds Koonunga Hill Chardonnay 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Rosemount Chardonnay 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Rosemount Semillon/ Chardonnay 2000 — 15 — £5–7

Shadow Ridge Chardonnay Colombard 2000 — 15.5 — £3.50

Tortoiseshell Bay Sauvignon Semillon 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

BULGARIAN RED

Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Somerfield — 13.5 — £3.50

Bulgarian Country Red 2000, Somerfield — 13 — £3.50

BULGARIAN WHITE

Blue Ridge Black Rosé 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Blue Ridge Chardonnay 2000 — 13.5 — £3.00

Bulgarian Chardonnay 1999, Somerfield — 16 — £3.50

Spice Trail White 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

CHILEAN RED

Canelo Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Canelo Estate Carmenère 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon Viña La Rosa 2000, Somerfield — 15.5 — £5.00

Chilean Cabernet/ Merlot Viña La Rosa 2000, Somerfield — 16 — £5.00

Chilean Merlot 2000, Somerfield — 16 — £5.00

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1998 — 16 — £5–7

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Errázuriz Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Isla Negra Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Isla Negra Merlot 2000 — 16.5 — £5–7

Santa Ines Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1999 — 16.5 — £5–7

Tarapaca Gran Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1999 — 16.5 — £5–7

Terrarum Merlot 2000 — 16.5 — £5–7

CHILEAN WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield 13.5 ~£5.00

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 2001, Somerfield 16 ~£5.00

Chilean Semillon Chardonnay 2000, Somerfield 16 ~£5.00

Chilean White 2000, Somerfield 14 ~£3.50

Cono Sur Viognier 2000 18 £5–7

Errázuriz Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7

Isla Negra Chardonnay 2000 15 £5–7

Terrarum Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 ~£5.00

FRENCH RED

Brouilly Les Celliers de Bellevue 2000 14 £5–7

Cabernet Sauvignon d'Oc 2000, Somerfield 14 ~£3.50

Château Blanca, Bordeaux 2000 15.5 ~£5.00

Château Cazal Viel, Cuvée des Fées St-Chinian 1999 16 £5–7

Château Plaisance, Montagne-St-Emilion 1997 14.5 £7–10

Château St-Benoit Minervois 1999 15.5 ~£5.00

Château Valoussière Coteaux de Languedoc 1997 16 ~£5.00

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine La Solitude 1999 14 £7–10

Claret 2000, Somerfield 15 ~£3.50

Corbières Rouge 2000, Somerfield 13 ~£3.50

Côte Sauvage Syrah Mourvèdre 2000 16 ~£5.00

Côtes du Rhône 2000, Somerfield 13 ~£3.50

Côtes du Rhône-Villages 1999, Somerfield 14 ~£5.00

Côtes du Roussillon 2000, Somerfield 15 ~£3.50

Domaine de Courtilles Côte 125 Corbières 1999 16 £5–7

Domaine La Tuque Bel Air, Côtes de Castillon 1998 15.5 £5–7

Fitou Rocher d'Ambrée 2000, Somerfield 14 ~£5.00

Gouts et Couleurs Syrah Mourvèdre VdP d'Oc 2000 15.5 ~£5.00

Hautes-Côtes de Beaune 1999 11 £7–10

Médoc 2000, Somerfield 14.5 ~£5.00

Merlot VdP l'Ardèche 2000, Somerfield 14 ~£3.50

Oak Aged Claret 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00

Old Git Grenache Syrah 2000 14 £5.00

Organic Merlot Vin de Pays NV 15.5 £5.00

Red Burgundy 1998, Somerfield 10 £5–7

St-Emilion 2000, Somerfield 14 £5–7

Stowells of Chelsea Merlot VdP d'Oc NV 12 £5.00

Syrah VdP de l'Ardèche 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Vacqueyras, Vignerons Beaumes de Venise 2000 16.5 £5–7

VdP de l'Ardèche Rouge 2000, Somerfield 13.5 £3.50

Vin de Pays Hérault 2000, Somerfield 11.5 £3.50

Winter Hill Rouge, VdP de l'Aude 2000 15 £5.00

FRENCH WHITE

Anjou Blanc 2000, Somerfield 12 £3.50

Bordeneuve Blanc VdP des Côtes de Gascogne 1999 13 £5.00

Chablis 1998, Somerfield 12.5 £7–10

Chablis Premier Cru Cottin Frères 1999 11.5 £10–13

Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000, Somerfield 14 £5.00

Côte Sauvage Chardonnay Viognier 2000 15 £5.00

Côte Sauvage Cinsault Rosé d'Oc 2000 15 £5.00

Domaine du Bois Viognier, Maurel Vedeau 1999 15 £5–7

Domaine Sainte Agathe Oak Aged Chardonnay 1999, Somerfield 15 £5–7

Gewürztraminer d'Alsace, Turckheim 2000 16 £5–7

Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Blanc, Georges Désire 1998 13 £7–10

James Herrick Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 2000 15 £5.00

Kiwi Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc, VdP du Jardin de la France 2000 14 £5.00

La Baume Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 £5.00

Laroche Chardonnay 2000 14.5 £5–7

Muscadet 2000, Somerfield 13 £3.50

Old Tart Terret Sauvignon 2000 13.5 £5.00

Rosé d'Anjou 2000, Somerfield 12.5 £3.50

Sancerre Domaine des Grand Groux 2000, Somerfield — 13 — £7–10

VdP de l'Ardèche Blanc 2000, Somerfield — 13 — ~£3.50

VdP du Comte Tolosan 2000, Somerfield — 13 — ~£3.50

Vouvray 2000, Somerfield — 14 — ~£5.00

White Burgundy 2000, Somerfield — 13.5 — £5–7

Winter Hill White 2000 — 14 — ~£5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Blue Nun Riesling 1999 — 13.5 — ~£5.00

Hock NV, Somerfield — 14.5 — £2.50

Kendermann Mosel Riesling 1999 — 14.5 — ~£3.00

Kendermann Pinot Grigio 1999 — 15 — ~£5.00

Morio Muskat 2000 — 15.5 — ~£3.50

Niersteiner Gutes Domtal 1999, Somerfield — 12 — ~£3.50

Niersteiner Gutes Domtal, Johannes Egberts 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Niersteiner Spiegelberg 1999, Somerfield — 14 — ~£3.50

Oppenheimer Krotenbrunner Rheinhessen Spätlese, Johannes Egberts 1999 — 12 — ~£3.00

Rheingau Riesling 2000, Somerfield — 13 — ~£5.00

Rheinhessen Spätlese 1999, Somerfield — 13 — ~£3.00

Rudesheimer Rosengarten 2000, Somerfield — 11 — ~£3.50

St Ursula Dry Riesling 2000 — 14.5 — ~£5.00

ITALIAN RED

Bardolino 2000, Somerfield — 12 — ~£3.00

Bright Brothers Negroamaro Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 14 — ~£3.00

Cabernet Sauvignon delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield — 13 — ~£5.00

Chianti Serristori 2000, Somerfield — 13 — ~£3.00

D'Istinto Sangiovese Merlot 1999 (Sicily) — 13.5 — ~£3.00

Il Padrino Syrah di Sicilia 2000 — 16 — ~£3.00

Inycon Merlot 2000 — 13.5 — ~£3.00

Merlot delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield — 14 — ~£5.00

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2000, Somerfield — 14 — ~£5.00

Sicilian Red 2000, Somerfield — 14 — ~£3.50

Terrale Sangiovese di Puglia 2000, Somerfield	16.5	£5.00
Tre Uve Ultima 1999	16.5	£5–7
Tre Uve VdT 2000	16	£5.00
Tuscan Red 2000, Somerfield	12	£3.50
Valpolicella 2000, Somerfield	12	£3.50

ITALIAN WHITE

Alfresco Vino da Tavola Bianco NV, Somerfield	14	£3.50
Alfresco Vino da Tavola Rosso NV, Somerfield	13	£3.50
Bright Brothers Greganico Inzolia 2000	14	£5.00
Chardonnay delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield	14.5	£5.00
Chiaro di Luna Bianco di Custoza 2000	15.5	£5.00
D'Istinto Catarratto Chardonnay 1999	13	£5.00
Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily)	16	£5.00
La Luna Bianco di Custoza 2000	15.5	£5.00
Marc Xero Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00
Pinot Grigio delle Venezie 2000, Somerfield	14.5	£5.00
Sicilian White 2000, Somerfield	14	£3.50
Soave 2000, Somerfield	13.5	£5.00
Trulli Chardonnay del Salento 2000	16	£5.00

MEXICAN RED

L A Cetto Petite Sirah 1999	15	£5.00

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Montana Sauvignon Blanc 1999	15.5	£5–7
Nobilo White Cloud 2000	13	£5.00
Villa Maria Chardonnay 1999	16.5	£5–7

PORTUGUESE RED

Bright Brothers Atlantic Vines Baga 1999	14.5	£5.00
Pedras do Monte 1999	16	£5.00
Portada Red Estremadura 1999	13.5	£5.00
Portuguese Red 2000, Somerfield	13.5	£3.50

PORTUGUESE WHITE

Bright Brothers Ferñao Pires Chardonnay 1998	15.5	£5.00

ROMANIAN RED

Eagle Valley Romanian Merlot 1999	15	£5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Andrews Hope Spice Route Cabernet Merlot 2000	13.5	£5–7
Bellingham Pinotage 1999	13	£5–7
Cape Soleil Organic Pinotage 2000	12.5	£5.00
Kumala Cinsault Pinotage 2000	13.5	£5.00
Kumala Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	15	£7–10
South Africa Dry Red 2000, Somerfield	12.5	£5.00
South African Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Somerfield	13	£5.00
South African Cinsault Ruby Cabernet 2000, Somerfield	12	£5.00
South African Pinotage 2000, Somerfield	13	£5–7
Spice Route Pinotage 2000	13.5	£7–10
Spice Route Shiraz 2000	13.5	£7–10

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Arniston Bay South African Chenin Chardonnay 2001	14.5	£5.00
Bellingham Chardonnay 2000	13.5	£5–7
Bellingham Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13.5	£5.00
Bush Vines Semillon 2001, Somerfield	13.5	£5.00
Danie de Wet South African Chardonnay 2001	13	£5.00
Kumala Colombard Sauvignon 2001	14	£5.00
Porcupine Ridge Sauvignon Blanc 2001	13	£5–7
South Africa Dry White 2001, Somerfield	13	£3.50
South African Chardonnay 2001, Somerfield	13.5	£5.00
South African Chenin Blanc 2001, Somerfield	13.5	£5.00
South African Colombard 2001, Somerfield	13	£5.00
South African Colombard Chardonnay 2001, Somerfield	13.5	£5.00
Van Loveren South African Sauvignon Blanc 2001	13	£5.00

SPANISH RED

Don Darias Red NV	14.5	£3.50
Espiral Tempranillo Barrique Somontano 1999	15.5	£5–7
Pergola Tempranillo 2000, Somerfield	13	£5.00
Santa Elisa La Mancha Red 1999	10	£3.50
Sierra Alta Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	16	£5.00
Sierra Alta Tempranillo 1999	14.5	£5.00
Valencia Red NV, Somerfield	13.5	£3.50
Viña Cana Rioja Crianza 1998, Somerfield	13	£5.00
Viña Cana Rioja Reserva 1995, Somerfield	15	£5–7

SPANISH WHITE

Castillo Imperial Blanco NV, Somerfield	13.5	£3.50
Don Darias White NV	14	£5.00
Mimbral Penedés Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00
Moscatel de Valencia, Somerfield	16	£3.50
Pergola Oaked Viura 2000, Somerfield	15	£5.00
Viña Cana Rioja Blanco 2000, Somerfield	14.5	£5.00

URUGUAYAN RED

Bright Brothers Tannat Cabernet Franc 2000	16	£5.00

URUGUAYAN WHITE

Bright Brothers Uruguayan Sauvignon/ Semillon 2000	15.5	£5.00

USA RED

Californian Dry Red NV, Somerfield	14	£5.00
Hidden Falls Carnelian Merlot 2000	11	£3.50
Laguna Canyon Zinfandel NV	10	£5.00
Marc Xero Merlot 1999	14	£5.00
Talus Zinfandel 1998	13	£5–7
Turning Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon 1997	12	£5–7
Turning Leaf Zinfandel 1996	12.5	£5–7

USA WHITE

Fetzer Sundial Chardonnay 1999	14	£5–7
Sebastiani Sonoma Chardonnay 1998	15.5	£7–10
Talus Chardonnay 1998	13.5	£5–7

FORTIFIED

Amontillado Sherry, Somerfield	15	£5.00
Cream Sherry, Somerfield	13	£5.00
Dow's LBV Port 1995	14.5	£7–10
Fino Sherry, Somerfield	16	£5.00
Manzanilla Sherry, Somerfield	16	£5.00
Navigators LBV Port 1995, Somerfield	14.5	£5–7
Navigators Ruby Port, Somerfield	14	£5.00
Navigators Vintage Character Port, Somerfield	18	£5–7
Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV50cl	13.5	£7–10
Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV	13	£7–10

SPARKLING

Asti Spumante NV, Somerfield	11.5	£5–7
Australian Quality Sparkling NV, Somerfield	14	£5–7
Australian Sparkling Chardonnay 1995, Somerfield	14	£7–10
Bollinger Special Cuvée NV	13	£20+
Cava Brut NV, Somerfield	15	£5.00
Cava Rosado NV, Somerfield	16	£5.00
Crémant de Bourgogne 1998, Somerfield	14	£7–10
De Vauzelle Champagne NV	14	£10–13
Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut NV	14	£5–7
Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand)	14	£7–10
Martini Asti Spumante NV	11	£5–7
Moscato Fizz, Somerfield	13	£2.50
Mumm Cuvée Napa Brut NV (California)	16	£7–10
Nicolas Feuillatte Champagne Brut NV	12	£13–20
Prince William Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV, Somerfield	13	£13–20
Prince William Blanc de Noirs Champagne NV, Somerfield	13.5	£10–13
Prince William Champagne Premier Cru NV, Somerfield	14	£13–20
Prince William Champagne Rosé NV, Somerfield	12	£13–20
South African Sparkling Sauvignon, Somerfield	16	£5.00

Vintage Cava 1997, £5.7
Somerfield

SEE STOP-PRESS SECTION AT END OF BOOK FOR LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS OR UPDATES TO THIS RETAILER'S RANGE.

SPAR

This retailer's answer to the question pervading this book – 'What in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' – was to some extent answered in autumn 2000 when Spar's managing director, Morton Middleditch (what a ringing Dickensian name! One can actually hear the reverend fellow preaching in his pulpit), said that independent licensed retailers who were looking to 'diversify their offering' should 'look to Spar'. What we have here then is a franchised retailer selling, via wholesalers, to independent store owners who may choose to buy only part of their wine range from Spar.

For Liz Aked, Spar's dogged wine buyer, the answer to the question above is more complex. She told me.

> *'The style of our retailing is every wine for every body. Only 8% of customers shop exclusively at Spar outlets – small village outfits for example where there is sense of community – and so we have to rely on passing, occasional trade, which does most of its wine buying elsewhere.'* She pauses for thought. *Then: 'I would like to think we provide the best retail quality at the best price.'*

It is impossible, given the circumstances in which Spar operates, to guarantee things which are taken for granted with the large supermarket chains. I can't even tell you what a shop with a Spar sign outside will say if you bring back a bottle of wine on the grounds it is faulty. At retailers like Tesco and Asda, there is a clear policy of an instant, hassle-free refund or a fresh bottle. At Spar it's very much up to the philosophy of the individual who runs the store and if you are not on first name terms with the owner – like one of those small villagers – then who knows what response you'll get when returning a wine you consider unfit to drink?

Nevertheless, Spar has tried wide ranging, ambitious initiatives. It has teamed up with neighbourhood on-line shopping service *BeepBeep.com* to provide local Internet shopping and home-delivery services. Spar International, the mother company, announced it was spreading to Russia with a store scheduled to open in Moscow in 2001, and 24 further outlets to be added during the next three years.

Spar also opened its first Express forecourt store in the Southwest, at Portishead. The Spar wholesaler concerned, Appleby Westward, is keen to open more petrol station outlets in the region. And in spring 2001, this mysterious retail force stuck its toe in the murky and expensive world of TV advertising – its first such campaign for 20 years. The £2 million campaign carried the strapline 'So near so Spar'.

Liz reckons that this year Spar will be near enough to enough drinkers for her to sell 13.5 million cases of wine, and it is a range she is working hard to improve. When I commented that I was unimpressed with many of the low priced French reds and whites, one superb Wild River Merlot from Boutinot being an exception, she was honest enough to agree. She remarked: 'Yes, I've got a lot of work to do there. Too many wines in that range are a bit hard.'

Not as hard as the job she has on her hands selling wines to all those ornery individuals who run their own little retail fiefdoms.

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66 College Road
Harrow
HA1 1BE

Tel 020 8426 3700
Fax 020 8426 3701
www.spar.co.uk

ARGENTINIAN RED

Argentinian Del Sur 1999, Spar	14	£5.00

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Argentinian Del Sur 2000, Spar	14	£5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

De Bortoli Australian Dry Red 2000, Spar	14	£5.00
De Bortoli Shiraz Cabernet 2000, Spar	12	£5.00
Normans Unfiltered Grenache 1997	14	£5.75
Temple Bruer Cabernet Merlot 1996	16	£7–10

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Bleasdale Verdelho 1999	13.5	£5–7
De Bortoli Australian Dry White 2000, Spar	13	£5.00
De Bortoli Australian Semillon Chardonnay 1999, Spar	13.5	£5.00
Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 1999	13.5	£5.00

BULGARIAN RED

Bulgarian Country Wine Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot NV, Spar	13	£3.50
Suhindol Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Spar	12	£5.00

BULGARIAN WHITE

Bulgarian Country White NV, Spar	11	£3.50
Preslav Estate Bulgarian Chardonnay 2000, Spar	12	£5.00

CHILEAN RED

Canèpa Merlot 1998, Spar	15	£5.00
Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Spar	13	£5–7
Chilean Merlot 1999, Spar	14	£5–7
Tocornal Red 2000, Spar	14	£5.00

CHILEAN WHITE

Canèpa Chilean Chardonnay 1999, Spar	13.5	£5–7
Canèpa Chilean Sauvignon Blanc 1999, Spar	14	£5.00
Tocornal Chilean White 2000, Spar	13	£5.00

FRENCH RED

Beaujolais NV, Spar	10	£5.00
Claret NV, Spar	13	£5.00
Coteaux du Languedoc 2000, Spar	13	£5.00
Côtes du Rhône 1999, Spar	13.5	£5.00
Côtes du Ventoux, Spar 1999	14.5	£5.00
Crozes-Hermitage 1999, Spar	13	£5–7
Fitou NV, Spar	16	£5.00
French Country Red NV, Spar (1 litre)	12	£3.50
Gevrey-Chambertin Les Caves des Hautes-Côtes 1994	12	£13–20
Hautes-Côtes de Beaune 1995, Spar	10	£5–7

La Côte Syrah Merlot VdP d'Oc 1999, Spar	13.5	£5.00
Oaked Merlot 1999, Spar	14	£5.00
Salaison Shiraz/ Cabernet VdP d'Oc 1998, Spar	16	£5.00
Shiraz VdP d'Oc 1999, Spar	13.5	£5.00
Vin de Pays de l'Aude NV, Spar	10	£3.50
Wild River Grenache 1999	13	£5.00
Wild River Merlot 1999	13.5	£5.00

FRENCH WHITE

Chablis 1998, Spar	15	£5–7
French Country VdP de l'Hérault White NV	12	£5.00
La Côte Chasan Chardonnay 1999	14	£5.00
Salaison Chardonnay Sauvignon 1999, Spar	13.5	£5.00
Unoaked Chardonnay 1999, Spar	13	£5.00
Vin de Pays de l'Aude NV, Spar	14	£3.50
White Burgundy Chardonnay 1996, Spar	13	£5–7
Wild River Terret Sauvignon 1999	14	£5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Grans Fassian Riesling 1996	16	£5–7

HUNGARIAN RED

Misty Mountain Merlot NV, Spar	13	£5.00

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Misty Mountain Chardonnay NV, Spar	13	£5.00

ITALIAN RED

Barolo 'Costa di Bussia' 1996	15	£13–20
Chianti 1999, Spar	11	£5.00
Chianti Classico Le Fioraie 1995	10	£7.10
Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 1999, Spar	12	£5.00
Pasta Red NV, Spar (1 litre)	11	£3.50
Riva Vino da Tavola NV, Spar	10	£3.50
Sangiovese del Rubicone Arienta NV, Spar	11	£5.00
Valpolicella NV, Spar	10	£5.00

ITALIAN WHITE

Colli Albani NV, Spar	14	£5.00

Pasta White NV, Spar (1 litre) 13 ~£3.50

Riva Vino da Tavola NV, Spar 15 ~£3.50

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi 1999, Spar 14 ~£5.00

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Saint Clair Marlborough Sauvignon 1996 13.5 £5–7

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Chiwara Cinsaut/Ruby Cabernet 1999 14.5 ~£5.00

Chiwara Pinotage 2000, Spar 12 ~£5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Chiwara Colombard/ Sauvignon 1998, Spar 14 ~£5.00

SPANISH RED

Rioja Crianza 1997, Spar 13 £5–7

Rioja NV, Spar 12 £5–7

Valencia Soft Red NV, Spar 12.5 ~£3.50

SPANISH WHITE

Perfect for Parties White NV, Spar (1 litre) 10 ~£3.50

Valencia Dry White NV, Spar 13.5 ~£3.50

USA RED

Fetzer Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 15.5 £5–7

Heritage Red 1999 14 ~£5.00

USA WHITE

Heritage Californian White 1999 10 ~£5.00

FORTIFIED

Fino Sherry NV, Spar 14.5 ~£5.00

Old Cellar LBV Port 1995, Spar 14 £7–10

Old Cellar Ruby Port NV, Spar 14.5 £5–7

SPARKLING

Asti Spumante NV, Spar 13 ~£5.00

Cava Brut NV, Spar 12 ~£5.00

Marques de Prevel Champagne NV, Spar 12 £13–20

TESCO

This retailer's response to the question pervading this book 'What in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' – was thus:

'Our key strength in the wine team is listening to our customers and understanding their needs this underpins everything we do. We have a comprehensive range of almost 800 wines, the largest range in any mainstream supermarket, and offer something for everyone (our customer base is very diverse,. We strive to offer unbeatable quality at excellent prices and respond to feedback from our customers who participate in quality assessment panels and taste our wines in store Last year approx. 150,000 customers tasted over 150 different wines in Tesco stores.

Our customers are very demanding and so we cannot stand still Our annual Wine Festival and promotions get better and better; our organic range is booming, we have launched an own-label range of 50 top quality 'Finest' wines, we've extended our fine wine range and improved in store ambience and display and last but not least we have launched our Tesco com *The Wine Warehouse site.'*

I concur with these modestly expressed sentiments. I can confirm that Tesco's strength is its diversity and agree totally that its style is typified by a sympathy to its customers' attitudes and requirements which has duly (and truly) made this retailer closer to more drinkers than any other wine merchant on the planet I don't know exactly how many hundreds of millions of bottles of wine it will sell this year, but I do know it will be more than anyone else.

An introduction to this company or an overview, if you will, of its activities since the last *Superplonk* came out, is very much a history not only of UK retailing during this period but also of many of the social and economic issues preoccupying us In July 2000, for example, Tesco reverted to selling produce in pounds and ounces following frustration from its customers who felt that the metric system was being imposed on them (it was later taken to court by Edinburgh Trading Standards for this backsliding

to Imperial measurements). The fact that this was first reported in the *Sun* newspaper, and that this Murdoch mouthpiece felt it important to make it known, tells us a good deal about the state of Britain in the new Millennium. If you require further proof of this, then you have only to consider that Tesco said, in 2000, that it would open 10 Internet cafes in its stores following a successful trial at its Kensington store. It opened a dog crèche at one store and began to flog travel insurance in others and, in a move to send shivers down the spine of the average car dealer, it was also reported that Tesco intended to flog cars on line at Tesco.com from early 2001. In the summer, it appointed John Hoerner (who once ran the Arcadia fashion shops) as boss of its clothing side.

Tesco later received a government grant of £1 million to open those Internet cafes. Tesco announced six months after this that it wanted to double the turnover of its on-line business in the next three years from its 2001 level of £250 million a year. Interestingly, the average sum Tesco shoppers spend on-line is between £80 and £90, four times the in-store average. (Reports that wealthier Tesco customers get their Internet groceries delivered in Harrods green, but otherwise unmarked Range Rovers, I put down to an April fool joke. Later, I discovered it was true.)

The *Sun's* sister rag, *The Times*, revealed that Tesco now had the first all female wine buying team of any UK supermarket and reported at length on this, linking it to the publication of a survey, which revealed that it was women more than men who chose most of the wine purchased in the country.

It is not true that Tesco's wine department is all-women, however, since it is very definitely a male who co-ordinates their buying operations in Australia and I have surely seen hairy beasts in dark suits at Tesco wine tastings. Ancillary to this, Tesco denied that it was dumbing down its wine range despite the fact that it has, according to a report in the *Off Licence News*, cut down on label detail and is moving towards lighter, fruitier wines. The retailer said that it was responding to demands from female shoppers who were tired of heavy wine styles and too much technical information on labels. 'There's no danger of dumbing down,' said a spokeswoman. 'The idea is to make the labels clearer.' Amen to that.

National concerns thus matter to Tesco as much as international ones. Its first store in Taiwan opened in December and a score more are promised over the next five years. The retailer already has stores in Thailand (24 branches as of August 2000) and seven in South Korea. It was also reported to be stepping up its plans to move into Japan, having sent a research team

to the country to sniff out potential deals. Tesco reported at this time interim profits of £415 million on a turnover of £10 billion and forecasted that 45% of the company's retail space would be outside the UK by 2002.

Back in Britain, a shop by bike scheme was launched at two Tesco stores For an £8 fee the customer buys a tow hook for her bike, to which is affixed a trailer packed at the checkout with the purchased groceries Customers are expected to return the trailers within three days if they don't return for more groceries – and on the return journey the trailer can be filled with recyclable materials like glass and paper for deposit in the appropriate banks in the Tesco car park. I have yet to investigate this phenomenon I do all my own supermarket shopping by bike, and a trailer would come in useful when I'm doing a lot of entertaining over a weekend I am, though, many miles from the nearest Tesco but, hint hint, if a trailer scheme was in place there I'd certainly give it a go.

Tesco also tested out a new style trolley with a built-in seat at its Eastbourne store. The trolley is designed for use by pensioners who make up more than 50% of the customers who shop at the seaside branch. What I haven't been able to find out is what method of locomotion is required to propel the trolley once the customer is seated in it I suspect, however, that the seat is merely to allow the shopper to take the weight off her feet, the concept of crazed wrinklies zooming around a supermarket on motorised trolleys doesn't bear thinking about.

Nor does a report (originally in the *Daily Mail*) that Tesco was sending new recruits on courses to learn basic maths and spelling. A £100,000 pilot programme was being run in Leeds. Since the educational system seems to have failed these new recruits, and Tesco is rescuing them, I am surprised that the Blair government doesn't learn a lesson itself from this and simply hand over the whole of British primary education to Tesco Isn't the overriding theme of the Blair administration one of the private sector and public sector working hand in hand?

One reason why Tesco require numerate employees is because they are required to count large sums of money Tesco employees, some 33,000 of them, received a £123 million windfall as part of the company's SAYE scheme in 2000 This figure represented a return on their investment of some 200%. It pays to work at Tesco and it helps if you can count

Less literacy is required from its customers. Anyone can understand when a brand is cheaper in one store than its rival down the road Hence Tesco cut £70 million from the prices of key shopping items in the hope of luring customers from Sainsbury's and Safeway (so it said) This inspired

widespread comment that a new supermarket price war was about to begin. Many shoppers were unaware, me included, that any cessation in hostilities had previously been declared.

Tesco came in for criticism from the civil rights group, Liberty, regarding its plans to sell information on 14 million Tesco Clubcard holders No one, however, complained about the civil rights violation of Mancunians aged between 11 and 18 banned from the branch in Didsbury (Manchester), during certain hours, after complaints about gangs of teenagers roaming the aisles In a contrary and unconnected move, Mr Terry Leahy, Tesco chief exec , was awarded the freedom of his home city of Liverpool.

Tesco then announced a £250 million investment programme for London, aiming to create 5,000 jobs over the next two years The plans include job training for the long-term unemployed and it was also said Tesco was considering building housing near its stores aimed at its lower and middle income employees. This must provide further thought for New Labour strategists having handed primary education over to Tesco why not ask the retailer to run all the nation's council estates?

Hard on the heels of the announcement above came news that Tesco planned to double the number of its so-called Extra hypermarkets in the UK over the next two years in order to reach £5 billion in non-food turnover by the end of 2002. Currently there are 23 Extra hypermarkets, in which some 50% of the selling area is devoted to non-food products. This was closely followed by the report of Tesco profits over £1 billion for the first time.

Tesco was now said to be building the largest foodstore in London on the site of the former gasworks in Beckton. The £20 million project will create 400 jobs when it opens in 2002, though no mention was made of any local Tesco primary schools or Leahy housing estates.

Nor indeed have we yet received news of the first Tesco employee millionaire This, however, is surely on the loyalty cards. At the last divi up in 2001, more than 70,000 Tesco staff split £38 million worth of shares between them shares which had risen in value by 31% over three years.

I leave it to a certain *Guardian* reader (how are you, Ron?) to write and tell me how long it will take a thrifty Tesco employee with an average shareholding, on the basis of those figures and assuming a constant rate of the same growth, to reach millionairedom I would guess about the same length of time as it will take before Spurs win the premiership title again.

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PO Box 18 Delamare Road
Cheshunt
EN8 9SL

Tel 0800 505555 Customer Careline
www.tesco.co.uk

ARGENTINIAN RED

Argento Malbec 2000 17.5 £5.00

Bright Brothers Barrica Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz 1998 15 £6-7

Catena Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 17 £7-10

Deep Purple Shiraz 2000 14 £5.00

Monster Spicy Red Syrah NV, Tesco 16 £5.00

Picajuan Peak Bonarda 2000 15.5 £5.00

Picajuan Peak Malbec 2000, Tesco 15 £5.00

Picajuan Peak Sangiovese 2000, Tesco 14.5 £5.00

Q Tempranillo 1998 16.5 £7-10

Santa Julia Bonarda/Sangiovese Reserva 1999 15 £5-7

Santa Julia Merlot Oak Aged 2000 15.5 £5.00

Santa Julia Oaked Tempranillo 2000 16.5 £5.00

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Argentinian Torrontes 1999, Tesco 13 £3.50

Argento Chardonnay 2000 17 £5.00

La Nature Organic Torrontes 2000 14 £5.00

Picajuan Peak Chardonnay 2000, Tesco 15.5 £5.00

Seriously Fruity Rosé NV, Tesco 14.5 £5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Angove's Lock 9 Carignan/Mataro/Shiraz 2000 10 £5.00

Angove's Stonegate Barbera 2000 14 £5.00

Australian Cabernet/Merlot NV, Tesco 15.5 £3.50

Australian Red NV, Tesco 15 £3.50

Australian Shiraz NV, Tesco 14 £3.50

Banrock Station Shiraz 2000 14.5 –£5.00

Banrock Station Shiraz/Mataro 2000 15 –£5.00

Barramundi Shiraz/Merlot NV 13.5 –£5.00

Blue Pyrenees Estate Red 1996 14 £10–13

Buckleys Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvèdre 1998 16 £7–10

Casella Carramar Estate Merlot 2000 14 –£5.00

Chapel Hill Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 14 £7–10

Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 1997, Tesco 16 £5–7

Hardys Stamp Shiraz/Cabernet 2000 13 £5.00

Image Cabernet/Merlot 2000 13.5 –£5.00

Lindemans Bin 50 Shiraz 1999 16 £5–7

McLaren Vale Grenache 1999, Tesco 13.5 £5–7

McLaren Vale Shiraz 1999, Tesco 14.5 £5–7

Miranda Rovalley Ridge Petit Verdot 2000 14 £5–7

Oxford Landing Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 1999 15.5 £5–7

Oxford Landing Merlot 15 £5–7

Penfolds Bin 128 Coonawarra Shiraz 1998 15.5 £7–10

Penfolds Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz 1998 15 £7–10

Penfolds Bin 35 Rawsons Retreat Shiraz/Cabernet 1999 16 £5–7

Rosemount Estate Cabernet/Merlot 2000 14 £5–7

Rosemount Estate Grenache/Shiraz 2000 13.5 £5–7

Rosemount Estate Merlot 1999 15 £7–10

Smithbrook Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc/Petit Verdot 1998 16 £7–10

St Hallett Faith Barossa Shiraz 1999 15 £7–10

Sunstone Fresh Spicy Red NV 12 –£5.00

Tim Adams Shiraz 1999 17 £7–10

Wilkie Estate Organic Cabernet Merlot 2000 13 £7–10

Wolf Blass Green Label Shiraz 1999 16 £5–7

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15.5 £7–10

Woolpunda Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 15 –£5.00

Woolpunda Merlot 1999 14.5 –£5.00

Woolpunda Shiraz 1998 16 –£5.00

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Australian Chardonnay, Tesco 16 £3.50

Australian White NV, Tesco 15.5 £3.50

Banrock Colombard Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00

Banrock Station Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00

Barramundi Semillon/ Chardonnay NV 16 £5.00

Blue Pyrenees Estate Chardonnay 1997 16.5 £10–13

Bonic Estate Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00

Brown Brothers Dry Muscat 2000 14 £5.00

Great Southern Riesling 2000, Tesco 16.5 £5–7

Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay Semillon 2000 15 £5.00

Hunter Valley Semillon 2000, Tesco 16 £5–7

Image Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00

Jacobs Creek Chardonnay 2000 15 £5.00

Jacobs Creek Dry Riesling 2000 15 £5.00

Langhorne Creek Verdelho 2000, Tesco 15 £5–7

Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay 2000 16 £5.00

Lindemans Cawarra Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00

Miranda White Pointer 2000 15.5 £3.00

Mount Pleasant Elizabeth Semillon 1994 15.5 £7–10

Normans Unwooded Chardonnay 2000 16.5 £5.00

Overtly Aromatic White NV, Tesco 15 £3.00

Oxford Landing Chardonnay 2000 15.5 £5.00

Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 £5.00

Padthaway Chardonnay 2000, Tesco 16 £5–7

Rosemount Chardonnay 2000 16 £5–7

Rosemount Sauvignon Blanc 2000 15 £5–7

Rosemount Semillon/ Chardonnay 2000 15 £5–7

Rosemount Semillon/ Sauvignon 2000 15 £5–7

Smithbrook Chardonnay 1998 15 £7–10

Smooth Voluptuous White NV, Tesco 15 £5.00

Tim Adams Riesling 2000 16 £7–10

Tim Adams Semillon 1998 16.5 £7–10

Woolpunda Blue Block Chardonnay 1998 — 15.5 — £3.00

Yendah Vale Chardonnay/Merlot Rosé 2000 — 12 — £5.00

AUSTRIAN RED

Blauer Zweigelt Lenz Moser 1997 — 14.5 — £3.00

BULGARIAN RED

Reka Valley Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Tesco — 14.5 — £3.50

CHILEAN RED

Caliterra Syrah 1999 — 16 — £5–7

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Tesco — 16 — £5.00

Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2000, Tesco — 15.5 — £5.00

Chilean Malbec NV, Tesco — 16.5 — £5.00

Chilean Merlot NV, Tesco — 16 — £5.00

Chilean Merlot Reserve 2000, Tesco — 15.5 — £5.00

Chilean Red NV, Tesco — 15 — £3.50

Cono Sur Pinot Noir 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Cono Sur Pinot Noir Reserve 1999 — 16.5 — £5–7

Errázuriz Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva 1998 — 16.5 — £7–10

Errázuriz Don Maximiano 1998 — 16 — £13–20

Errázuriz Merlot 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Errázuriz Syrah Reserva 1998 — 16 — £7–10

Isla Negra Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Isla Negra Merlot 2000 — 16.5 — £5–7

Luis Felipe Edwards Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva 1999 — 15.5 — £5–7

Salsa Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Santa Ines Cabernet/Merlot 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Stowells Chilean Cabernet/Merlot NV — 14.5 — £5.00

Terra Mater Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Two Tribes Red NV — 14.5 — £5.00

Valdivieso Cabernet Franc Reserve 1999 — 17 — £7–10

Valdivieso Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1998 — 17 — £5–7

Valdivieso Carignan 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Valdivieso Malbec Reserve 1997 — 16.5 — £7–10

Vision Merlot Reserve 2000 — 16.5 — £7–10

CHILEAN WHITE

Chilean Chardonnay Reserve 2000, Tesco 16 – £5.00

Chilean Chardonnay, Tesco 14 – £5.00

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV, Tesco 14.5 – £5.00

Chilean White NV, Tesco 14.5 – £3.50

Errázuriz Chardonnay 1999 16 £5–7

Errázuriz Chardonnay Reserva 1997 17 £7–10

Isla Negra Chardonnay 2000 13 – £5.00

Luis Felipe Edwards Chardonnay 1999 16.5 – £5.00

Santa Ines Sauvignon Blanc 2000 16 – £5.00

Stowells Chilean Sauvignon Blanc NV 12 – £5.00

Terra Mater Chardonnay 2000 14.5 – £5.00

Two Tribes White NV 14 – £5.00

Valdivieso Malbec Rosé 2000 16.5 – £5.00

FRENCH RED

Beaujolais NV, Tesco 11 – £3.50

Beaujolais-Villages 2000, Tesco 12 – £5.00

Bordeaux Réserve Calvet 1998 14.5 £5–7

Cabernet Sauvignon Prestige VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 15.5 – £5.00

Cabernet Sauvignon Réserve 1998, Tesco 13.5 – £5.00

Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco 14 – £3.50

Château Clement Pichon, Cru Bourgeois Haut-Médoc 1996 13 £13–20

Château de Côte de Montpezat, Côtes de Castillon 1998 16 £5–7

Château la Fleur Bellevue Premières Côtes de Blaye 1998 14 – £5.00

Château la Tour de Mons Bordeaux 1996 13.5 £13–20

Château Lafarque Pessac Léognan 1996 12 £10–13

Château Liliane-Ladouys Cru Bourgeois Supérieur Saint-Estephe 1996 12 £13–20

Chinon Baronnie Madeleine, Couly Dutheil 1999 16.5 £5–7

Claret, Tesco 12.5 – £3.50

Clarity Bordeaux Rouge 1998 14 – £5.00

Corbières NV, Tesco 13.5 – £3.50

Corbières Réserve La Sansoure 2000, Tesco 13.5 – £5.00

Côtes du Rhône NV, Tesco 13.5 – £3.50

Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2000, Tesco — 16 — £5.00

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Réserve Domaine de la Grande Retour 2000, Tesco — 15 — £5.00

Crozes-Hermitage Cave de Tain 1999 — 16.5 — £5–7

Domaine du Soleil Syrah/Malbec VdP d'Oc NV — 14.5 — £5.00

Domaine Richeaume Organic Syrah Côtes de Provence 1999 — 16.5 — £13–20

Dorgan VdP de l'Aude NV — 14 — £3.50

Fitou NV, Tesco — 13.5 — £3.50

Fitou Réserve Baron de la Tour 1999, Tesco — 16 — £5.00

Fleurie Louis Josse 1999 — 14 — £5–7

French Cabernet Sauvignon Réserve, VdP d'Oc 1998 — 16 — £5.00

French Merlot VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco — 14.5 — £3.50

Gamay NV, Tesco — 10 — £3.50

Gevrey-Chambertin Jean-Philippe Marchand 1998 — 12 — £13–20

Grenache Prestige VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco — 13 — £5.00

Grenache VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco — 14.5 — £3.50

Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Les Caves des Hautes-Côtes 1998 — 13 — £5–7

Hautes-Côtes de Nuits Louis Josse 1998 — 12 — £5–7

Juliénas Georges Duboeuf 1999 — 13 — £5–7

Le Monstre Grenache Noir 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Les Etoiles French Organic Red Wine NV — 13 — £5.00

Louis Jadot Beaujolais-Villages 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Margaux 1998, Tesco — 14 — £10–13

Médoc 1998, Tesco — 16 — £5–7

Merlot Prestige VdP d'Oc NV, Tesco — 15 — £5.00

Minervois NV, Tesco — 13 — £3.50

Oak Aged Red Burgundy 1998, Tesco — 13.5 — £5–7

Oaked Côtes du Rhône NV — 13.5 — £5.00

Perrin Vacqueyras 1998 — 14 — £7–10

St-Emilion 1999, Tesco — 16 — £7–10

Valréas Domaine de La Grande Bellane 1999 (organic) — 14.5 — £5–7

Vintage Claret 1998 — 14 — £5.00

Yvecourt Claret Bordeaux 1999 — 13.5 — £5.00

FRENCH WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 1999, Tesco	17	£5–7
Alsace Riesling 1999, Tesco	14.5	£5–7
Anjou Blanc NV, Tesco	13	–£3.50
Bergerac Blanc NV, Tesco	14.5	–£3.50
Cabernet de Saumur Rosé NV, Tesco	14.5	–£5.00
Celsius Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé, VdP d'Oc 2000	14	–£5.00
Celsius Medium Chardonnay, VdP d'Oc 2000	13.5	–£5.00
Chablis 2000, Tesco	15	£5–7
Chablis Premier Cru 1998, Tesco	16	£10–13
Chardonnay Barrel-aged Reserve, VdP d'Oc 1999	15	–£5.00
Chardonnay Réserve 1999, Tesco	14	–£5.00
Château Baratet Blanc 1999 (organic)	14	–£5.00
Château Talmont 2000	16	–£5.00
Côtes du Rhône Blanc NV, Tesco	15	–£3.50
Côtes du Rhône Rosé, AC Côtes du Rhônes 2000	14	–£5.00
Domaine Cazal Viel Viognier 1999	16	£5–7
Domaine du Soleil Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV	14	–£5.00
Domaine du Soleil Sauvignon/ Chardonnay VdP d'Oc NV	14	–£5.00
Entre-Deux-Mers NV, Tesco	13.5	–£5.00
French Chardonnay NV, Tesco	13.5	–£3.50
French Chenin Blanc NV, Tesco	14.5	–£3.50
French Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000, Tesco	16	–£5.00
Kiwi Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc, VdP du Jardin de la France 2000	14	–£5.00
Les Estoiles Organic Chardonnay/Chenin VdP d'Oc NV	13.5	–£5.00
Les Quatre Clochers Chardonnay 1998	15.5	£5–7
Mâcon Villages-Blanc 2000, Tesco	15	–£5.00
Muscadet NV, Tesco	14.5	–£3.50
Muscadet sur Lie 2000, Tesco	14	–£5.00
Oak Aged Bordeaux NV, Tesco	13	–£5.00
Oak Aged White Burgundy 1999, Tesco	15	£5–7
Petit Chablis 1999, Tesco	15	£5–7

Pouilly-Fuissé Louis Jadot 1998	11	£13–20
Pouilly-Fumé Cuvée Jules 1999	13	£7–10
Sancerre 2000, Tesco	16	£5–7
Vouvray, Tesco	12	£5.00

GERMAN RED

Fire Mountain Pinot Noir 1999	10	£5.00

GERMAN WHITE

Bernkasteler Graben Riesling Kabinett 1999	15	£5–7
Carl Erhard Rheingau Riesling 1999	14	£5.00
Fire Mountain Riesling 1999	14	£5.00
Grans Fassian Riesling 1999	14.5	£5–7
Steinweiler Kloster Liebfrauenberg Kabinett, Tesco	14	£5.00
Steinweiler Kloster Liebfrauenberg Spätlese, Tesco	13	£5.00

GREEK RED

Grande Reserve Naoussa 1996	14	£5–7

GREEK WHITE

Santorini 1999	16	£3.00

HUNGARIAN RED

Reka Valley Hungarian Merlot, Tesco	13	£3.50
Riverview Kékfrancos/ Merlot 2000	13.5	£5.00

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Emerald Hungarian Sauvignon Blanc 2000	15.5	£5.00
Nagyrede Estate Barrel Aged Pinot Grigio/ Zenit 1998	16	£5.00
Reka Valley Chardonnay NV, Tesco	12	£3.50
Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000	15	£5.00

ITALIAN RED

Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico 1998	14	£7–10
Barbera d'Asti Calissano 1999	14	£5.00
Chianti 1999, Tesco	12	£3.50
Chianti Classico Riserva 1998, Tesco	16.5	£5–7
Chianti Rufina 1999, Tesco	15.5	£5.00

Inycon Merlot 1999 (Sicily)	15.5	£5.00
Inycon Syrah 2000 (Sicily)	16	£5.00
La Gioiosa Merlot 2000	15.5	£5.00
Merlot del Piave NV, Tesco	11	£5.00
Monte d'Abro Montepulciano Abruzzo NV	15	£5.00
Pendulum Zinfandel 1999	15.5	£5.00
Pinot Noir del Veneto NV, Tesco	11	£5.00
Sicilian Red NV, Tesco	14	£3.50
Terra Viva Organic Red 2000	14	£5.00
Terre Dego 2000	15.5	£5.00
Tre Uve Ultima 1998	16	£5–7
Trulli Primitivo Salento 1999	14.5	£5.00
Valpolicella Classico 1999, Tesco	12	£5.00
Villa Pigna Rosso Piceno 1998	14	£5.00

ITALIAN WHITE

Antinori Orvieto Classico Secco 1999	13	£5.00
Asti NV, Tesco	13	£5.00
Cataratto Chardonnay Sicilia NV, Tesco	13.5	£5.00
'I Portali' Basilicata Greco 1999	16	£5.00
Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily)	16	£5.00
Italia Pinot Grigio 2000	12.5	£5.00
La Gioiosa Pinot Grigio 2000	15	£5.00
Lamberti Pinot Grigio 2000	16	£5.00
Terra Viva Organic Soave Superiore 2000	14	£5.00
Terra Viva Organic White 2000	13.5	£5.00
Trulli Dry Muscat 2000	15	£5.00
Verdicchio Classico dei Castelli di Jesi 2000, Tesco	13.5	£5.00
Viña Clara Frascati Classico Superiore 2000	14.5	£5.00

MEXICAN RED

Mexican Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Tesco	13	£5.00

MEXICAN WHITE

Mexican Chardonnay 1999, Tesco	13	£5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Babich Cabernet Franc/Pinotage 1999	13.5	£5–7

Babich Winemaker's Reserve Syrah 1998 — 15 — £7–10

Montana Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Montana Pinotage 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Montana Reserve Merlot 1999 — 15 — £7–10

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Azure Bay Chardonnay/Semillon 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 16.5 — £7–10

Lawsons Dry Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 17 — £7–10

Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Tesco — 16 — £5–7

Montana Reserve Chardonnay 1999 — 17 — £7–10

Montana Reserve Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2000 — 16.5 — £7–10

Montana Unoaked Chardonnay 2000 — 14 — £5–7

New Zealand Dry White, Tesco — 13.5 — £5.00

Nobilo White Cloud 1999 — 15 — £5.00

Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 15 — £5–7

PORTUGUESE RED

Dão, Tesco 1999 — 14.5 — £5.00

Portuguese Red NV, Tesco — 14.5 — £3.50

PORTUGUESE WHITE

Dry Vinho Verde, Tesco — 13.5 — £5.00

ROMANIAN RED

Reka Valley Romanian Pinot Noir, Tesco — 15.5 — £3.50

ROMANIAN WHITE

Shaw & Smith Unoaked Chardonnay 1999 — 16 — £7–10

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

African Legend Pinotage 1999 — 13 — £5.00

Apostles Falls Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 — 15 — £5–7

Apostles Falls Merlot 1999 — 15.5 — £5–7

Beyers Truter Pinotage NV, Tesco — 16 — £5.00

Cape Cinsault NV, Tesco — 14.5 — £5.00

Cape Cinsault/ Pinotage NV, Tesco — 15 — £5.00

Fairview Shiraz 1999 — 16.5 — £5–7

Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000	14	£5.00
Goiya Glaan 2000	15	£5.00
Kumala Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2000	15	£5.00
Kumala Cinsault/ Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	14	£5.00
Kumala Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	13	£7–10
Landskroon Premier Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	13	£5–7
Oak Village Vintage Reserve 2000	15	£5.00
Rylands Grove Cabernet/Merlot 2000	16.5	£5.00
Rylands Grove Cinsaut/Tinta Barocca 2000	13	£5.00
South African Red NV, Tesco	11	£3.50
South African Reserve Cabernet NV, Tesco	12	£5.00
Winds of Change Cabernet Sauvignon/ Pinotage 2000	14.5	£5.00

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

African Legend Colombard 2000	14	£5.00
Apostles Falls Chardonnay 2000	13	£5–7
Arniston Bay Rosé 2000	13	£5.00
Cape Chenin Blanc NV, Tesco	11	£3.50
Fairview Chardonnay 2000	16	£5–7
Fairview Goats do Roam Rosé 2000	14	£5.00
Fire Finch Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13.5	£5.00
Goiya Kgeisje 2001	13	£5.00
Oak Village Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13	£5.00
Rylands Grove Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2000	13.5	£5.00
Rylands Grove Dry Muscat 2000	15	£5.00
Rylands Grove Sauvignon Blanc 2000	14.5	£5.00
South African Chardonnay 2000, Tesco	15	£5.00
South African Chardonnay/ Colombard NV, Tesco	14	£5.00
South African Medium Sweet White NV, Tesco	13	£3.50
Third Millennium Chenin Chardonnay 2001	14	£5.00
Van Loveren Blanc de Noir Red Muscadel Rosé 2000	14	£3.50

Winds of Change Chardonnay 2000 — 13 — £5.00

SPANISH RED

Campillo Reserva Rioja 1995 — 13 — £10–13

Campo Viejo Crianza 1997 — 13 — £5–7

Don Darias NV — 13.5 — £3.00

Huge Juicy Red NV, Tesco — 13.5 — £5.00

Las Postas Rioja 2000 — 14 — £3.50

Marqués de Chive Reserva 1995, Tesco — 14.5 — £5.00

Marqués de Chive Tempranillo NV, Tesco — 13 — £3.50

Marqués de Griñon Rioja 1999 — 16 — £5–7

Orobio Tempranillo Rioja 1999 — 16 — £5.00

Señorio de los Llanos Valdepeñas Gran Reserva 1994 — 14 — £5.00

Señorio de los Llanos Valdepeñas Reserva 1996 — 14 — £3.00

Simply Garnacha 1999, Tesco — 14 — £3.50

Tempranillo 1999, Tesco — 13 — £5.00

Torres Coronas Tempranillo 1999 — 16 — £5–7

Torres Sangre de Toro 1999 — 14 — £5–7

Viña Mara Gran Reserva Rioja 1994 — 13 — £7–10

Viña Mara Rioja Reserva 1996, Tesco — 13.5 — £7–10

Viña Mara Rioja, Tesco — 14 — £5.00

Viña Montana Monastrell/Merlot 1998 — 16 — £5.00

Zorro Tempranillo/ Monastrell 2000 — 14 — £5.00

SPANISH WHITE

Moscatel de Valencia, Tesco — 16 — £3.50

Torres Viña Sol 2000 — 13.5 — £3.00

USA RED

Fetzer Barrel Select Pinot Noir 1997 — 13 — £7–10

Fetzer Barrel Select Zinfandel 1997 — 13.5 — £7–10

Fetzer Syrah 1997 — 12 — £5–7

Gallo Turning Leaf Zinfandel 1998 — 12 — £5–7

West Coast California Cabernet/Shiraz 2000, Tesco — 12 — £5.00

West Coast Merlot Reserve 1999, Tesco — 14.5 — £5–7

West Coast Ruby Cabernet/Merlot 1999, Tesco — 13 — £5.00

West Coast Zinfandel Reserve 1999, Tesco — 13 — £5–7

USA WHITE

Fetzer Barrel Select Chardonnay 1997 — 13.5 — £7–10

Fetzer Valley Oaks Rosé 2000 — 13.5 — £5–7

Gallo Turning Leaf Chardonnay 1999 — 12 — £5–7

West Coast California Chardonnay 1999, Tesco — 14.5 — £5.00

FORTIFIED

10 Year Old Tawny Port, Tesco — 19 — £10–13

Dow's LBV Port 1995 — 14.5 — £7–10

Dow's Quinta do Bonfim Vintage Port 1986 — 13 — £13–20

Superior Oloroso Seco, Tesco — 16 — £3.50

Superior Palo Cortado, Tesco — 16 — £5.00

Warre's Otima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl — 13.5 — £7–10

SPARKLING

Australian Sparkling Wine NV, Tesco — 13 — £5.00

Banrock Station Sparkling Shiraz NV (Australia) — 13.5 — £7–10

Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV, Tesco — 14 — £13–20

Blanc de Noirs Champagne NV, Tesco — 12 — £10–13

Cava NV, Tesco — 15 — £5.00

Champagne Perrier-Jouet Belle Epoque 1995 — 13 — £20+

Cockatoo Ridge Black Sparkling Red NV — 13.5 — £7–10

Demi Sec Cava NV, Tesco — 11 — £5.00

Demi Sec Champagne NV, Tesco — 13.5 — £10–13

Hardys Stamp of Australia Chardonnay/Pinot Noir Sparkling NV — 14 — £5–7

Heidsieck Dry Monopole Blue Top Champagne NV — 13 — £13–20

Hungarian Sparkling Chardonnay NV, Tesco — 13.5 — £5.00

Jacob's Creek Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Australia) — 13 — £5–7

Laurent-Perrier Cuvée Rosé Brut NV — 11 — £20+

Laurent-Perrier Vintage 1990 — 13 — £20+

Les Etoiles Organic Sparkling Wine NV — 12 — £5–7

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand)	14	£7–10
Lindauer Brut Rosé NV (New Zealand)	14	£7–10
Lindauer Special Reserve NV (New Zealand)	16	£7–10
Organic Champagne Jose Ardinat NV	13	£13–20
Premier Cru Champagne NV, Tesco	15	£10–13
Rosé Cava NV, Tesco	15	–£5.00
Rosé Champagne Brut NV, Tesco	14	£13–20
South African Sparkling Sauvignon 2000, Tesco	12	–£5.00
Taittinger Champagne Brut NV	12	£20+
Vintage Cava 1997, Tesco	15	£5–7
Vintage Champagne 1995, Tesco	14.5	£13–20

SEE STOP-PRESS SECTION AT END OF BOOK FOR LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS OR UPDATES TO THIS RETAILER'S RANGE.

WAITROSE

No keeping journalists waiting here. The answer to the question I asked everyone else in this book – 'What in your opinion is the strength of your range of wines or the particular style of your way of retailing wine?' – came whizzing back by e-mail in no time. It was written by Julian Brind, the head of Waitrose's wine buying department. Mr Brind advised me:

> *'Waitrose aims to inspire and delight its customers with its offer of a wide choice of the best quality and best value for money wines at all price levels ranging from well-known classics to the latest wine styles to be found anywhere in the world.'*

This is substantially true. It obscures the hard work this wine department puts in living up to those ambitions and conceals obvious weirdities (like the dreadful Canadian wines, acquired and put on shelf for no reason that I can divine except that it would, and indeed does, make Waitrose unique). No hint in Mr Brind's response is given, either, of Waitrose's breadth as well as depth, and I speak here of its food operations as much as its wine range.

Last year, for example, the company expanded its *Waitrose@work* intranet office shopping scheme, signing up a further 24 companies. This service permits employees of Waitrose to do their Waitrose food shopping on line. It was a very savvy business move this one and demonstrates Waitrose's quiet, unobtrusive yet dogged approach to ideas, which the bigger retailers miss by thinking so large. Another good move was the store's strengthening of its position in the organic market with the addition of several organic wines to its range. It also expanded its Internet services where the retailer's full range is to be offered on-line when the Waitrose Deliver home-shopping service is launched. It was said that Waitrose hoped to generate 5% of its total sales from the Internet by 2005.

That represents a lot of money. Consider: Waitrose announced a turnover in the financial year to end of January 2001 of £1.85 billion.

Other initiatives included making available its Waitrose Deliver scheme in 20% of the company's stores by May 2001. It was already running in four

stores but was only available to John Lewis account card holders. The scheme was extended to all customers in four test stores in February 2001 and to as many as 25 to 30 stores by May

Around this time it was reported in the magazine *Retail Week* that Waitrose was to be very daring and trying its hand at TV advertising A £2 5 million campaign was due to go live in early May in the London and Southeast region though not having a TV I failed to see it What did I miss? If the slogan 'Quality food, honestly priced' – is anything to go by not much, though I have no doubt, knowing ad agencies and the way they handle retail clients, that the food shots were mouthwateringly art directed. 'The campaign,' said managing director David Felwick, 'is designed to underline the authority, care, quality and passion that set Waitrose apart '

Waitrose echoes the ambitions of the National Health service under New Labour. Well, in a way Waitrose is more like a social service than a hard-nosed business

It doesn't have employees, the staff are all 'partners'. For Waitrose is a division of the John Lewis Partnership and the high ideals, which motivated the forming of that business, permeate Waitrose, giving it an old fashioned charm and meticulous sense of propriety which is not so richly evident in any other retailer I deal with.

Waitrose Limited
Customer Service Department
Southern Industrial Area
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 8YA

Tel 0800 188884 Customer Service Line
Tel 0800 188881 Waitrose Direct mail order
www waitrose com

ARGENTINIAN RED

Balbi Malbec Reserva, Mendoza 1999 14 £5.29

Familia Zuccardi Q Merlot 1998 16 £7.10

Finca el Retiro Malbec, Mendoza 2000 16.5 £5.79

Santa Julia Bonarda/ Sangiovese 2000 12 £5.00

Trivento Sangiovese, Mendoza 2000 14 £5.00

ARGENTINIAN WHITE

Bodega Lurton Pinot Gris, Mendoza 2000	15	£5.00
Catena Agrelo Vineyards Chardonnay 1999	15	£7–10
Chenin Blanc/ Torrontes, Mendoza 2000, Waitrose	14	£5.00
Santa Julia Viognier Reserve 2000	16	£5–7
Trivento Chardonnay 2000	14	£5.00

AUSTRALIAN RED

Brown Brothers Nebbiolo 1996	13	£7–10
Brown Brothers Tarrango 2000	13	£5–7
Charleston Pinot Noir 1998	11	£7–10
Church Block Cabernet Shiraz Merlot, Wirra Wirra Vineyards 1998	15.5	£7–10
Clancy's Red 1998	15.5	£7–10
Deakin Estate Merlot, Victoria 2000	15.5	£5–7
Eileen Hardy Shiraz 1997	14	£20+
Fishermans Bend Cabernet Sauvignon 1999	13	£5.00
Garry Crittenden Barbera 'i' 1999	14	£7–10
Greg Norman Shiraz 1999	13	£7–10
Jindalee Shiraz 2000	15	£5.00
Katnook Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	15.5	£10–13
Ninth Island Pinot Noir, Tasmania 2000	12	£7–10
Penfolds Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon/ Shiraz 1999 (organic)	14	£7–10
Penfolds Grange South Australia Shiraz 1995	14	£20+
Peter Lehmann The Barossa Shiraz 1999	16	£7–10
Rosemount 'Hill of Gold' Cabernet Sauvignon, Mudgee 1998	17.5	£7–10
Settler's Station Tempranillo 2000	14	£5–7
Tatachilla Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot, McLaren Vale 1998	14	£7–10
Tatachilla Foundation Shiraz 1998	13.5	£13–20
Tatachilla Growers Grenache Mataro 1999	14	£5.00
Tea Tree Malbec/Ruby Cabernet 2000	13	£5.00
The Angelus Cabernet Sauvignon, Wirra Wirra 1998	16	£13–20
Yaldara Grenache Reserve, Barossa 1999	13	£5–7
Yellowtail Merlot 2000	12	£5.00

AUSTRALIAN WHITE

Brown Brothers Late Harvested Orange Muscat & Flora 1999 (half bottle)	16.5	£5–7
Bushmans Crossing Semillon/Chardonnay 2000	13	–£5.00
Cape Mentelle Semillon/Sauvignon 2000	17	£7–10
Chapel Hill Verdelho 1999	16.5	£7–10
Charleston Pinot Gris 2000	15	£5–7
Château Tahbilk Marsanne 1998	17	£5–7
Currawong Creek Chardonnay 2000	13	£5.00
De Bortoli Yarra Valley Chardonnay 1999	14	£10–13
Glenara Organic Dry Riesling 1996	16.5	£7–10
Greg Norman Estates Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2000	13	£7–10
Hardys Stamp of Australia Grenache Shiraz Rosé 1999	13.5	–£5.00
Houghton Classic Dry White 1998	13.5	£5–7
Jindalee Chardonnay 2000	16	–£5.00
Nepenthe Lenswood Riesling 2000	16	£7–10
Nepenthe Vineyards Lenswood Semillon 1998	16.5	£7–10
Nepenthe Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£7–10
Oxford Landing Limited Release Viognier 2000	17	£5–7
Oxford Landing Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	–£5.00
Penfolds Bin 95a Chardonnay	13.5	£13–20
Penfolds Old Vine Semillon, Barossa 1998	16	£5–7
Penfolds Rawson's Retreat Bin 202 Riesling 2000	14	–£5.00
Rosemount Estate Show Reserve Chardonnay 1999	16	£7–10
Roxburgh Chardonnay 1997	13.5	£20+
Tea Tree Estate Chardonnay/ Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13.5	–£5.00
Voyager Estate Chardonnay 1999	13	£10–13
Wirra Wirra Oaked Chardonnay 1998	17	£7–10
Yalumba Eden Valley Viognier 1999	17.5	£7–10

AUSTRIAN WHITE

Münzenrieder 1997 (half bottle) 13 £5–7

BULGARIAN RED

Blue Ridge American Barrel Merlot 1999 14.5 ~£5.00

Domaine Boyar Merlot/Gamza, Iambol 1999 15 ~£3.50

CANADIAN WHITE

Mission Hill Private Reserve Pinot Blanc 1999 11 £5–7

Peller Estates Founders Series Vidal 1999 10 ~£5.00

CHILEAN RED

Caballo Loco No 4 NV 16.5 £13–20

Concha y Toro Merlot 2000 14 ~£5.00

Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel Valley 2000 12 ~£5.00

Errázuriz Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 15.5 £5–7

Errázuriz Merlot 1999 16 £5–7

Isla Negra Cabernet Sauvignon, Rapel 1999 16 £5–7

Mont Gras Carmenère Reserva 2000 15.5 £5–7

Valdivieso Barrel Selection Cabernet/Merlot 1997 16.5 £5–7

Valdivieso Cabernet Franc Reserve 1998 17.5 £7–10

Valdivieso Pinot Noir Reserve 1997 16 £5–7

CHILEAN WHITE

35 South Sauvignon Blanc 2000 14.5 ~£5.00

Caliterra Chardonnay 2000 15.5 ~£5.00

Canèpa Sémillon 2000 14.5 ~£5.00

Gracia Temporal Reserva Superior Chardonnay 1997 15 £7–10

ENGLISH WHITE

Chapel Down Downland Oak NV 15 ~£5.00

Chapel Down Flint Dry 1998 13.5 ~£5.00

FRENCH RED

Abbotts Ammonite Côte du Roussillon 1999 14 ~£5.00

Beauchatel Claret, Bordeaux 1999 12 ~£5.00

Bistro Rouge VdP d'Oc 2000 14.5 ~£5.00

Boulder Creek Red VdP du Vaucluse 2000 13 –£3.50

Cahors 1999 15 –£5.00

Château Beauchêne Châteauneuf-du-Pape 1999 13 £7–10

Château Calon-Segur Bordeaux 1997 14 £13–20

Château Cazal Viel, Cuvée des Fées St-Chinian 1999 16 £5–7

Château d'Aigulhe Côtes de Castillon 1997 13 £7–10

Château de Caragulhes Corbières 1998 (organic) 13.5 £5–7

Château de Castres Graves 1998 15 £7–10

Château de Targé, Saumur 1999 15.5 £5–7

Château des Jacques, Moulin-à-Vent 1999 13 £7–10

Château du Glana Cry Bourgeois St-Julien 1997 14 £10–13

Château Haut d'Allard Côtes de Bourg 1998 15 £5–7

Château Haut-Nouchet Pessac-Léognan 1998 (organic) 15.5 £10–13

Château l'Evangile, Pomerol 1997 16 £20+

Château Leoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé, St-Julien 1997 15.5 £20+

Château Leoville Las-Cases 2ème Cru Classé, St-Julien 1994 16 £20+

Château Pavie-Macquin St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé 1996 12 £20+

Château Pech-Latt, Corbières 1999 15 £5–7

Château Rauzan-Segla 2ème Cru Classé, Margaux 1997 13.5 £20+

Château Tayac Cru Bourgeois, Margaux 1995 13 £13–20

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Clos St-Michel 1999 16 £7–10

Chinon Les Petites Roches 2000 13.5 £5–7

Chorey-les-Beaune Domaine Maillard 1998 14.5 £7–10

Côtes du Rhône 2000, Waitrose 13 –£5.00

Côtes du Ventoux 2000 13.5 –£5.00

Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert [redacted] 13 £10–13

Domaine de Courtille Corbières 1999 15 £7–10

Ermitage du Pic Saint-Loup Coteaux du Languedoc 1999 16.5 £5–7

Fleurie Montreynaud 2000 12 £7–10

Fortant Grenache VdP d'Oc 2000 16 –£5.00

Gevrey-Chambertin Domaine Heresztyn 1999 — 13 — £13–20

Good Ordinary Claret Bordeaux NV, Waitrose — 13 — £5.00

Hermitage Le Pied de la Côte, Paul Jaboulet Aine 1998 — 12 — £14–20

La Colombe Côtes du Rhône 1999 (organic) — 14 — £5.00

La Cuvée Mythique VdP d'Oc 1998 — 16 — £5–7

La Nature Oaked Merlot VdP d'Oc 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

Les Quarterons St-Nicolas de Bourgueil 2000 — 15.5 — £5–7

Maury, Les Vignerons du Val d'Orbieu NV — 16 — £5.00

Maury Vin Doux Naturel NV (half bottle) — 16 — £5.00

Mercurery Rouge Premier Cru 'Les Puillets', Château Le Hardi 1998 — 13 — £10–13

Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Aigues 2000 — 16 — £3.50

Oaked Merlot VdP d'Oc 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Parallele 45 Côtes du Rhône, Paul Jaboulet 1998 — 16 — £5–7

Pommard Premier Cru Les Boucherottes 1999 — 12.5 — £13–20

Prieurs de Foncaire, Buzet Grande Réserve 1998 — 13.5 — £5.00

Saint Roche VdP du Gard 1999 (organic) — 13.5 — £5.00

Savigny-les-Beaune Caves des Hautes-Côtes 1999 — 13 — £7–10

Seigneurs d'Aiguilhe Côtes de Castillon 1998 — 13 — £7–10

Special Reserve Claret Bordeaux 1999, Waitrose — 13 — £5.00

Special Reserve Claret, Côtes de Castillon Limited Edition Millennium Magnum 1996 (magnum) — 16 — £5.00

St-Emilion Yvon Mau NV — 13 — £5–7

Volnay Premier Cru Les Caillerets, Clos des 60 Ouvrées, Domaine de la Passe d'Or 1996 — 10 — £20+

Volnay Premier Cru Les Chevrets 1999 — 13.5 — £20+

Winter Hill Shiraz, VdP d'Oc 2000 — 14 — £5.00

FRENCH WHITE

Alsace Gewürztraminer 1999, Waitrose — 16 — £5–7

Alsace Pinot Blanc, Paul Blanck 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Anjou Blanc Ackerman 1999 — 13 — £3.50

Bordeaux Blanc Medium Dry, Yvon Mau NV — 12 — £3.50

Bordeaux Sémillon 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Boulder Creek White 2000 — 13 — £3.50

Chablis Gaec des Reugnis 1998 — 14.5 — £7–10

Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir 1998 — 12 — £13–20

Chablis, William Fèvre 1999 — 13 — £7–10

Chardonnay VdP du Jardin de la France 2000, Waitrose — 13.5 — £5.00

Chassagne-Montrachet Bouchard Père 1999 — 13 — £20+

Château Carsin Cuvée Prestige 1998 — 15 — £7–10

Château Climens Barsac 1996 (half bottle) — 13 — £13–20

Château de Caraghuiles Organic Rosé 2000 — 14 — £5–7

Château La Garenne Sauternes 1997 — 13.5 — £13–20

Château Liot Sauternes 1997 (half bottle) — 14 — £7–10

Château Petit Roubie, Picpoul du Pinet 2000 (organic) — 13.5 — £5.00

Château Rieussec, Sauternes 1996 (half bottle) — 15 — £13–20

Château Saint-Jean-des-Graves, Graves 2000 — 10 — £5–7

Château Thieuley, Bordeaux 2000 — 15 — £5–7

Château Vignal Labrie, Monbazillac 1997 — 16 — £7–10

Coteaux du Giennois Blanc 1999 — 14.5 — £5–7

Fortant 'F' Limited Release Chardonnay, VdP d'Oc 1998 — 15 — £7–10

Huet Clos de Bourg Demisec, Vouvray 1999 — 17.5 — £7–10

La Baume Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000 — 14.5 — £5.00

La Cité Chardonnay, VdP d'Oc 2000 — 13 — £5.00

Mâcon-Villages Chardonnay, Cave de Lugny 2000 — 14 — £5.00

Mercurey Blanc Château le Hardi 1999 — 12 — £10–13

Montagny Premier Cru Bouchard Père 1998 — 10 — £7–10

Muscadet sur Lie 'Fief Guerin' 1999 — 14 — £5.00

Muscat Sec Domaine de Provenquiere, VdP d'Oc 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise NV (half bottle) 15.5 £5.00

Pinot Gris Grand Cru Rangen de Thann Clos St Urbain, Domaine Zind Humbrecht 1996 18.5 £20+

Pouilly-Fuissé Château Vitallis 2000 11 £10–13

Pouilly-Fumé Masson Blondelet 1999 14.5 £7–10

Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru Champs Gains 1997 13 £20+

Quincy La Boissière 1999 13 £5–7

Rosé d'Anjou 2000, Waitrose 11 £5.00

Saumur Blanc 'Les Andides' Saint Cyr-en-Bourg 1999 14 £5.00

Tokay Pinot Gris Heimbourg, Domaine Zind Humbrecht 1998 12 £20+

Top 40 Chardonnay VdP d'Oc 1999 12 £5–7

Touraine Sauvignon Blanc 2000, Waitrose 12 £5.00

Vin Blanc Sec VdT Francais NV, Waitrose 12 £3.50

Winter Hill Syrah Rosé, VdP d'Oc 2000 13 £5.00

Winter Hill VdP d'Oc 1999 15 £3.50

GERMAN RED

Dornfelder Pfalz Lergenmüller 1999 16 £5–7

GERMAN WHITE

Bernkasteler Badstube Spätlese Dr Thanisch 1997 14 £7–10

Devil's Rock Masterpiece, St Ursula 1999 13 £5.00

Dr Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 1995 15 £10–13

Dr Wagner Ockfener Bockstein Riesling 2000 13 £5–7

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese 1990 15.5 £7–10

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spatlese 1997 16.5 £5–7

Hedgerow Rheinhessen 2000 13 £5.00

Kendermann Vineyard Selection Dry Riesling 13.5 £5.00

Riesling Bassermann Jordan, Pfalz 2000 13 £5–7

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese, Egon Müller 1999 10 £20+

Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett, Egon Müller 1999 14 £13–20

Villa Wolf Pinot Gris 1999 — 14 — £5–7

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 1990 — 17 — £13–20

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spatlese, JJ Prum 1994 — 15 — £13–20

GREEK RED

Pathos Xinomavrou, Tsantali 1999 — 15 — ~£5.00

HUNGARIAN WHITE

Deer Leap Gewürztraminer, Zemplen 2000 — 16.5 — ~£5.00

Deer Leap Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 16 — £5.00

Matra Springs 2000 — 14 — ~£3.50

Nagyrede Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé 2000 — 14 — ~£3.50

Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000 — 15 — ~£5.00

ITALIAN RED

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Riserva, Zenato 1993 — 15 — £20+

Amativo Negroamaro Primitivo 1999 — 15.5 — £5–7

Araldica Albera Barbera d'Asti Superior, Piemonte 1999 — 14 — ~£5.00

Arcano Chianti Colli Senesi, Cecchi 1999 (organic) — 13.5 — £5–7

Barolo Terre da Vino 1997 — 13.5 — £10–13

Bonarda Sentito, Oltrepo Pavese 1999 — 15.5 — ~£5.00

Buonasera, Argiolas NV (Sardegna) — 15 — ~£5.00

Capitel dei Nicola Valpolicella Classico Superiore 1997 — 15.5 — £5–7

Castello di Fonterutoli Chianti Classico Riserva 1997 — 14 — £20+

Chianti 1999, Waitrose — 13.5 — ~£5.00

Chianti Classico Fattoria di Capraia, Rocca di Castagnoli 1998 — 13.5 — £7–10

Emporio Barrel Aged Syrah 1998 (Sicilia) — 15 — £5–7

Il Padrino Sangiovese 2000 (Sicilia) — 15.5 — ~£5.00

La Rena Salice Salento Leone de Castris 1998 — 16 — £5–7

Mezzomondo Negroamaro 1999 — 16 — ~£5.00

Natural State Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 1999 (organic) — 16.5 — ~£5.00

Nero d'Avola Syrah, Firriato 2000 (Sicilia) — 14.5 — ~£5.00

Pendulum Zinfandel 1999 — 15.5 — £5.00

Planeta Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 — 12 — £13–20

Sangiovese Marche, Waitrose — 13 — £3.50

Tenute Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico Riserva 1997 — 16 — £10–13

Terra Viva Merlot del Veneto 2000 (organic) — 14 — £5.00

Tignanello 1997 — 13 — £20+

Valpolicella 2000, Waitrose — 13 — £3.50

Vigna Alta Merlot/Cabernet Venosa, Basilicata 2000 — 16.5 — £5.00

ITALIAN WHITE

Buongiorno Argiolas Sardegna NV — 16 — £5.00

Inycon Chardonnay 2000 (Sicily) — 16 — £5.00

Lugana Villa Flora 2000 — 16 — £5–7

Mezzo Mondo Chardonnay 2000 — 15 — £5.00

Orvieto Classico Cardeto 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Pinot Grigio Alto Adige San Michele-Appiano 2000 — 15.5 — £5–7

Planeta Chardonnay 1999 — 18 — £13–20

Sauvignon Friuli, San Simone 2000 — 15.5 — £5.00

Soave Classico Vigneto Colombara 2000 — 16.5 — £5.00

Verdicchio dei Castelli Jesi, Moncaro 2000 — 12 — £5.00

Zagara Catarratto Chardonnay Firriato 2000 (Sicily) — 16.5 — £5.00

MEXICAN RED

L A Cetto Petite Sirah 1998 — 16 — £5.00

NEW ZEALAND RED

Church Road Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1998 — 15.5 — £7–10

Montana Cabernet Merlot 1999 — 15 — £5–7

Montana Reserve Pinot Noir 1999 — 13.5 — £7–10

Unison Selection, Hawkes Bay 1998 — 12 — £13–20

Wither Hills Pinot Noir 1999 — 13 — £10–13

NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Azure Bay Chardonnay/Semillon 2000 — 13.5 — £5.00

Craggy Range Old Renwick Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2000 — 14.5 — £7–10

Craggy Range Winery Chardonnay, Hawkes Bay 1999	16	£10–13
Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16.5	£7–10
Montana Reserve Barrique Fermented Chardonnay 1999	16.5	£7–10
Montana Riesling 2000	14	–£5.00
Oyster Bay Marlborough Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£5–7
Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2000	16	£5–7
Stoneleigh Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2000	15	£5–7
Tiki Ridge Dry White 2000	13	–£5.00
Villa Maria Private Bin Riesling 2000	16	£5–7
Wither Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2000	15	£7–10

PORTUGUESE RED

Altano 1999	14	£5–7
Terra de Lobos, Quinta do Casal Branco 2000	14	–£5.00
Trincadeira Joao Portugal Ramos 1999	14	£7–10
Vila Santa Alentejano 1999	15	£7–10
Vinho do Monte, Alentejo 1999	15	–£5.00

PORTUGUESE WHITE

Terras do Rio Quinta de Abrigada 1998	15	–£3.50

ROMANIAN RED

Willow Ridge Pinot Noir/Merlot 1999	15.5	–£5.00

ROMANIAN WHITE

Willow Ridge Sauvignon Blanc/ Feteasca 2000	15	–£3.50

SOUTH AFRICAN RED

Andrew's Hope Spice Route Pinotage 2000	15.5	£5–7
Clos Malverne Basket Pressed Pinotage, Stellenbosch 1999	16	£5–7
Culemborg Cape Red 2000	12	–£5.00
Goats Do Roam Fairview, Paarl 2000	14	–£5.00
Graham Beck The Ridge Shiraz 1999	15	£7–10
Natural State Shiraz 1999 (organic)	14.5	£5–7
Spice Route Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1998	16.5	£7–10
Spice Route Flagship Merlot 1998	17	£13–20
Villiera Merlot, Paarl 1998	14.5	£7–10

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

Colombard Chardonnay 2000, Waitrose	14.5	~£5.00
Culemborg Cape White 2000	13	~£3.50
Culemborg Unwooded Chardonnay, Western Cape 2000	12.5	~£5.00
Diamond Hills Chenin Blanc/Chardonnay 2000	12	~£5.00
Excelsior Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2000	17	~£5.00
Fairview Viognier, Paarl 2000	14.5	£7–10
Jordan Chardonnay 2000	15.5	£7–10
Kumala Colombard/ Chardonnay 2000	14	~£5.00
Spice Route Abbotsdale Colombard/Chenin Blanc 1999	15	£7–10
Springfield Sauvignón Blanc Special Cuvée 2000	14.5	£5–7
Steenberg Sauvignon Blanc 2000	13.5	£7–10
Steenberg Semillon 1999	16	£7–10
Warwick Estate Chardonnay, Stellenbosch 2000	16	£5–7

SPANISH RED

Chivite Coleccion 125 Reserva 1996	16	£13–20
Cosme Palacio Rioja 1998	15	£5–7
Espiral Oaked Tempranillo 1998	15	£5–7
Espiral Tempranillo/ Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	16	~£5.00
Marqués de Griñon Dominio de Valdepusa Syrah 1998	17	£10–13
Palacio de Otazu Reserva, Navarra 1996	16	£7–10
Torneo Reserva, Valdepeñas 1996	14	~£5.00
Torres Gran Sangre de Toro Reserva 1996	16	£5–7
Totally Tinto Tempranillo NV	14	~£5.00
Totally Two Thousand Tempranillo NV (magnum)	15.5	~£5.50
Viña Fuerte Garnacha, Calatayud 2000	15.5	~£5.00
Viña Herminia Graciano Reserva Rioja 1995	14	£7–10
Viña Herminia Rioja Crianza 1996	14	£5–7
Viña Lanciano Reserva 1995	13	£13–20

SPANISH WHITE

Albarino Pazo de Seoane, Rias Baixas 2000	12	£7–10
Cune Monopole Rioja Blanco 1998	13	£5–7
Lustau Moscatel de Chipiona NV	16	£5.00
Palacio de Bornos Rueda 2000	12	£5.00
Torres Viña Sol 2000	15.5	£5.00

URUGUAYAN RED

Pisano Family Reserve Tannat 1999	13	£7–10

USA RED

Bonterra Vineyards Merlot 1997 (organic)	16.5	£7–10
Fetzer Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 1998	14.5	£5–7
Hedges Three Vineyards Columbia Valley 1998	13	£13–20
Ironstone Vineyards Zinfandel 1998	10	£5–7
Yorkville Cellars Cabernet Franc 1997 (organic)	14	£7–10
Yorkville Petit Verdot 1997	16	£7–10

USA WHITE

Bonterra Muscat 1999 (half bottle) (organic)	14	£5–7
Fetzer Echo Ridge Viognier 2000	13.5	£5–7
Mandolin Californian Chardonnay 1999	11	£5–7

FORTIFIED

10 Year Old Tawny Port, Waitrose	14	£10–13
Apostoles Palo Cortado Muy Viejo (half bottle)	18.5	£10–13
Dow's LBV Port 1995	14.5	£7–10
Fino Sherry, Waitrose	15.5	£5.00
Graham's LBV Port 1994	13.5	£10–13
Matusalem Oloroso Dulce Muy Viejo (half bottle)	16.5	£10–13
Quinta da Noval 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV	15	£13–20
Solera Jerezana Dry Amontillado, Waitrose	16	£5–7
Solera Jerezana Old Oloroso, Waitrose	16.5	£5–7
Vintage Warre Quinta da Cavadinha Port 1987	17.5	£13–20
Warre's Optima 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV 50cl	13.5	£7–10

Warre's Traditional LBV Port 1990	16.5	£13–20
Warre's Warrior Special Reserve Port NV	13	£7–10

SPARKLING

Alexandre Bonnet Brut Rosé NV (France)	14	£13–20
Banrock Station Sparkling Shiraz NV (Australia)	16.5	£7–10
Brut Vintage 1996, Waitrose	18	£13–20
Cava Brut NV, Waitrose (Spain)	15	£5.00
Champagne Blanc de Blancs NV, Waitrose	14	£13–20
Champagne Blanc de Noirs NV, Waitrose	15	£10–13
Champagne Blanc de Noirs NV, Waitrose	16	£10–13
Champagne Bredon Brut NV	12	£7–10
Champagne Brut NV, Waitrose	14	£13–20
Champagne Fleury Brut 1993	13	£20+
Champagne Fleury Brut NV	13	£13–20
Champagne Lanson Noble Cuvée 1988	12	£20+
Champagne Moët et Chandon Brut Imperial Vintage 1992	13.5	£20+
Chandon Argentina Brut Fresco NV	13.5	£7–10
Chandon Australia Brut NV	13.5	£7–10
Chapel Hill Pinot Noir/ Chardonnay NV	15	£5.00
Chapel Hill Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Hungary)	12	£5.00
Charles Heidsieck Champagne Blanc de Blancs 1982	20	£20+
Charles Heidsieck Reserve Mise en Cave 1996 (France)	16	£20+
Clairette de Die Jadissane NV (organic)	11	£5–7
Crémant de Bourgogne Rosé NV (France)	14	£7–10
Cuvée Royale Blanquette de Limoux NV	13.5	£5–7
Deutz Marlborough Cuvée NV	13	£10–13
Duc de Marre Spécial Cuvée Champagne Brut Non Vintage	13.5	£13–20
Jacob's Creek Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir NV (Australia)	15	£5–7
Lanson Vintage Gold Label 1994	13	£20+

Le Mesnil Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Champagne Brut Non Vintage 13 £13–20

Lindauer Brut NV (New Zealand) 14 £7–10

Moët et Chandon L-D Champagne 1992 14 £20+

Saumur Brut NV, Waitrose 16 £5–7

Seaview Brut NV (Australia) 14 £5–7

Seaview Brut Rosé NV (Australia) 13.5 £5–7

Sparkling Burgundy NV 12 £7–10

Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs 1990 13 £20+

SEE STOP-PRESS SECTION AT END OF BOOK FOR LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS OR UPDATES TO THIS RETAILER'S RANGE.

PART 5

STOP PRESS

MARKS & SPENCER

Torre Scalza Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2000, Italian Red 17.0 £6.99
Superb vibrancy and tonal complexity here with baked berries, spicy tannins, chocolate and an overall textured charm, which is both benchmark Montepulciano yet also something more modern and vivid.

Aramonte Catarratto Barrique 2000 (Sicily), Italian White 16.5 £4.99
Delicious plump fruits (hard and soft and nutty) with a superb enveloping oiliness that gives the whole structure class and real style. A purposeful, poised, polished white wine of huge charm.

Rustica Primitivo Salento 2000, Italian Red 16.0 £4.49
Amazing level of svelte elegance from this beautifully textured wine. Has richness yet subtlety, power yet delicacy, finesse yet loads of flavour.

Clos Roque D'Aspes Faugères 1998, French Red 17.0 £6.50
Chocolate, coffee, berries, herbs, tannins. This glittering recipe coalesces into something truly gripping and deep. A terrific red.

Sierra Los Andes Chardonnay 1999, Chilean White 16.0 £4.99
Baked melon richness is not OTT but fresh and fine and the finish is very elegant.

Villa di Rovo Insolia 2000, Italian White 16.0 £4.99
Evolves slowly but deliberately from fresh citrus-tinged richness to a nutty melonosity and even a touch of raspberry. A delightful wine of charm and individuality.

Dolce Vita Dolcetta d'Alba 2000, Italian Red 16.5 £4.99
Very posh bottle with a brilliant label, this is obviously a proud production – even before we get to the fruit. And this is indeed a marvel, offering plums and cherries in controlled profusion plus delightful tannins. A remarkably couth performer for a strikingly modest sum.

Vibra Monastrell/ Garnacha 2000, Spanish Red 16.0 £3.99
Encroaches delightfully slowly on the taste buds offering spicy plums, then cherries and raspberries - plus fine tannins.

Amoskuil Sauvignon Blanc 2001, South African White 16.0 £5.99
Very classic Sauvignon with dry gooseberry, nuts and a touch of pear and pineapple. A very elegant, textured, well-structured wine

Campo Fiorito Nero d'Avola 2000, Italian Red 16.0 £8.99
Places the Nero d'Avola grape in the same league as Shiraz, if not Merlot. The wine here is boldly complexioned yet not ruddy, strongly jawed yet not pugnacious, and feisty yet not flashy. A finely knitted set of tannins give the whole structure decisive charm.

Château de L'Ille 1998, French Red 16.5 £6.99
Brilliant throaty richness here, where herby berries meld with tannins of depth and decisiveness.

Las Mulas Verdejo Rueda 2000, Spanish White 16.0 £4.99
Very elegant, warm, soft-yet-fresh fruited white wine with real individuality and charm - and it makes a refreshing change from Chardonnay.

Padronale Syrah Sicilia 2000, Italian Red 16.5 £4.99
Superbly spicy and sunny fruit with hints of coffee and nuts to its wide-ranging berries. Lovely tannins enrich the bass notes of the wine, which gives character and depth

Flor de Maig Tarragona 1999, Spanish Red 16.0 £6.49
Interesting, characterful blend of local grapes plus 15 per cent Cabernet. Has texture, tension, tautness and terrific pace. Finely arranged and well played by its trio of winemakers (which includes a Wagner).

Château Plo du Roy Le Balcon du Diable 1998, French Red 17.5 £7.50
Massive, mouth-filling boulders of bold berries marching in unison over the taste buds, providing a really vivid performance. There are craggy tannins too, and so the balance is high class, the texture tremendous, and the finish lingering and richly memorable.

Rasteau Rhône Valley 2000, French Red 16.0 £7.99
Delicious coffee-edged, cassis-minded richness with raspberry tinged tannins. A good energetic mouthful of weight and wit

Château Bel Air Lagrave 1990, French Red 16.5 £23.00

At its peak of durability with its tannins holding up well against the toffee-edged berries and herbs. A finely mature claret, at a high price but has an elegance and well tailored cut of great class. 25 stores only.

Castillo de Madax Cabernet Sauvignon/ Monastrell 2000, Spanish Red 16.5 £5.99
Rich, invigorating berries with very lingering, cocoa-edged tannins. A well-textured, very well priced wine of depth and deliciousness.

Château Franc-Maillet, Pomerol 1999, French Red 17.5 £17.99
Now here is evidence that claret, at admittedly a high price, can be justifiably brilliant, complex, vibrant, fruity and ineffably excitingly tannic. Has great smoothness in the face of the rippling tannins (I nearly wrote ripping talons).

Vacqueyras, Cuvée des Vieilles Vignes 1998, French Red 17.5 £8.99
Deeply serious, richly romantic, highly developed berries of great class and clout. Terrific tannins put in a ripe supporting role and the overall texture is brilliant. This is a complex, complete, very accomplished performer.

Amoskuil Red 1999, South African Red 16 £8.99
Very juicy but judiciously so. Has an enticing perfume and well realised rich berries and tannins to back it up.

Weandre Stream Chardonnay 2000, Australian White 16.5 £4.99
Fantastic complexity and boldness for a fiver. Has lovely creaminess, and vegetal richness, freshness, texture, flavour and real class as it finishes

Sierra Los Andes Gewürztraminer 2001, Chilean White 16 £5.50
Gewürz in its subtle, aperitif style manifestation. Has lovely dry, would-be-rich fruit that recalls spicy melon and pineapple rather than upfront lychee. A very elegant, subtly spicy wine of great charm

Casa Leona Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2000, Chilean Red 17 £6.50
Superb layers of berries, plums, cherries and tannins that sweep all before them as they proceed, aromatically, from nose to throat. The texture is high class, the finish exciting

Freedom Ridge Viognier 2000, USA White 16 £5.99
Superb texture – polished and warm – offering nuts, apricots and gooseberry all wrapped in a charming dry coat of good acidity. A most elegant performer.

Gordon Brothers 16 £14.00
Merlot 1998, USA Red
Very superior, richly textured fruit of high-class and consummate clout. A most stylish Merlot of considerable verve, vibrancy and great wit.

15 Year Old Solera 16 £7.99
Especial Oloroso (Half Bottle), Spanish Fortified
Develops by degrees from tarry bernes to molasses as it proceeds to the throat. A wonderful wine for cake, biscuits, or even ice-cream

12 Year Old Solera 17 £6.99
Especial Amontillado (Half Bottle), Spanish Fortified
A wonderfully oily, intense, dry, rich, tarry sherry of complexity and beautifully-textured elegance. It keeps its texture all the way and doesn't lose its grip, go too saline or austere, or become deflected from its rich, smooth course

SAFEWAY

Villa Maria Private Bin 17.0 £7.99
Sauvignon Blanc 2001, New Zealand White
I see no reason not to clone this wine – one of the most complete Sauvignons I've tasted from the 2001 vintage.

Ravenswood Lane 16.5 £13.99
'Beginning' Chardonnay 1999, Australian White
Expensive, hugely elegant, superb wood/fruit integration and the creamy vegetality is outstandingly controlled. A finely-textured, very fine wine.

Errázuriz Chardonnay, 16.5 £5.99
La Escultura Estate Casablanca Valley 2000, Chilean White
The standard bearer for dry, full-of-finesse-yet-rich Chardonnays worldwide.

Trulli Chardonnay del 16.0 £4.49
Salento 2000, Italian White
Deliciously elegant and easy-going. Homophonically a 100 per cent Chardonnay? And so in fact. Lovely ripe melons controlled by citrus acids. Regulation recipe but exemplary for the money.

Montana Sauvignon 16.0 £5.99
Blanc 2001, New Zealand White
Can subtlety have great impact? Well it does here. Brilliantly delicate yet emphatically Sauvignon.

Tinta da Anfora 1999, 16.5 £5.99
Portuguese Red
A marriage of Trincadeira Preta, Periquita Aragonez and Moreta grapes, that startles with its svelte texture and deep berries. A very

full, deep wine of class and precision.

Black River Merlot/ Pinot Noir 2000, Argentinian Red 16.0 £4.99
Lovely bush fruit with highly active, chewy tannins. A very deep wine of great flavour.

Simon Gilbert Chardonnay 1999, Australian White 17.5 £5.99
Has an interesting aroma of bread in its doughy stage and this leads to really excitingly-textured fruit of individuality and most committed subtle richness. This is an outstanding, modern classic Chardonnay. Has complex fruit of huge class. One of the most original Aussie Chardonnays in years.

Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2001, New Zealand White 16.5 £6.99
Has beautiful pebbly and minerally acids allied to elongated gooseberry and lemon fruit.

Moscatel de Valencia 2000, Safeway, Italian White 16.5 £3.99
Classic sweet wine with touches of Muscat spice and mild marmalade. Brilliantly effective with ice-cream and other rampant desserts.

L'Enclos des Cigales Syrah VdP d'Oc 2000, French Red 16.5 £3.99
Magnificent value for money and hugely competitive with Aussie Shirazes at three times the price. Has bustling fruit, great deep tannins and oomph on the finish.

Domaine des Lauriers, Faugères 1998, French Red 16.5 £5.99
No nods to the New World here, and what a triumph of plummy richness, spice, herbs and lovely polished, textured tightness it is. A delightfully daring wine. Selected stores

Danie de Wet Chardonnay Sur Lie 2001, South African White 16.5 £3.99
One of the most elegant Chardonnays in the world – for the money. It's simply gob-smacking.

Domaine La Tour du Maréchal Chardonnay, VdP de l'Hérault 2000 (Organic), French White 16.0 £4.99
An intensely dry specimen of Chardonnay but very crisp. Great food wine. Selected stores

Concha y Toro Castillero de Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Chilean Red 16.0 £4.99
With fish risotto this turned in a triumphant performance: gently spicy, rich, well-textured and classy.

St Nikolaus Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spatlese 1997, German White 16.0 £5.99
Great drinking now with its honeyed gooseberry and raspberry fruit, insistent acids and stealthy, wealthy finish.

KJ Collage Semillon/ Chardonnay 1999, USA White 16.0 £6.99
Another fine blend of grapes. Is Safeway making a speciality of this? If so, I applaud them.

Michel Torino Coleccion Merlot 2000, Argentinian Red 16.0 £5.99
Vibrates with raspberries, blackberries, plums and a very vague spiciness. Superb texture and finish.

Starve Dog Lane Sauvignon Blanc 2001, Australian White 16.0 £8.99
Very pure, unfussy fruit of great elegance and delicacy. Has a suppressed richness (melon and lemons) and a very fine, crisp finish.

Errázuriz Syrah 2000, Chilean Red 16.5 £7.99
A delightfully serious yet provocative Syrah (with one per cent Cabernet) which has individuality, poise, texture, superb tannins and remarkably couth richness

Pencil Pine Cabernet/ Merlot 2000, Australian Red 16.0 £6.99
Here the jamminess is in good balance with the tannins, and the resultant texture is plummy, ripe and classy.

Chilean Sauvignon/ Chardonnay 2001, Chilean White 16.0 £3.69
A most original blend of gooseberry, melon, raspberry and good firm acids.

Versus 2001 (1 litre), South African White 16.0 £5.49
Brilliant marriage of soft Chenin and crisp, suave Sauvignon.

Castillo de Molina Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Chilean Red 17.0 £5.99
Frighteningly good. Has very rich berries, complex and complete, superb tannins and tantalisingly tasty acids, which combine with power and pace. A lovely wine of consummate class and drinkability

Booarra Chardonnay/ Viognier 2001, Australian White 16.0 £6.99
Terrific marriage of hope over expectation (I speak of the two grape varieties in the blend). Melons and apricots perfectly suited and deliriously happy.

Accademia de Sole Vioca Familia Plaia 2000, Italian White 16.5 £4.99
Gorgeous dry nuttiness, very

subtle and that hint of oily richness as it finishes – all terrific.

Dow's 20 Year Old Tawny Special Reserve Port, Portuguese Fortified 17.0 £23.59
Combines piles of sweet flavour: honey, crème caramel, custard and strawberries. To be drunk by a roaring fire for the sheer hell of its richness

Douglas Green Sauvignon 2001, South African White 16.0 £4.49
Amazing price for such classy fruit: dry, crisp, stylish.

Ca Bianca Gavi 2000, Italian White 16.0 £5.99
The essence of crisp nuttiness. Delicious dry fruit.

Pencil Pine Chardonnay 2000, Australian White 17.0 £6.99
Wonderfully oily richness here. Subdued vegetality, lovely firm acids and complex layers of lemon on the finish. An outstanding Chardonnay of relaxed classiness.

Errázuriz Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Chilean Red 16.5 £6.49
Dark, charcoal richness; soft tannins; lovely berries in layered profusion and a soft finish of pace and power.

Fetzer Zinfandel/ Shiraz 2000, USA Red 16.5 £5.99
Superbly cheeky blend of chutzpah and cheerful cherries, plums, raspberries, ripe tannins, spice and a very lingering soft finish. A very energetic wine of great food compatibility.

SOMERFIELD

Argentine Chardonnay Penaflor NV, Somerfield, Argentinian White 16.0 £4.49
Elegant, ripe, very ready.

Trulli Chardonnay del Salento 2000, Italian White 16.0 £4.79
Deliciously elegant and easy-going. Homophonically a 100 per cent Chardonnay? And so in fact. Lovely ripe melons controlled by citrus acids. Regulation recipe but exemplary for the money.

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc Jose Canepa 2001, Somerfield, Chilean White 16.0 £3.99
On the richer side but balanced by melon fruit and ripe lemon acids

Normans Old Vine Shiraz 1999, Australian Red 16.0 £2.99
A brilliant spicy food wine with its baked berry fruit, subtle tannins (which do linger on the finish and don't quit early as many Aussie tannins do). Overall it is deep and engaging.

Terrarum Reserve Morrande Merlot 2000, Chilean Red 16.0 £5.99
Has an acquired grassiness that melts to provide vivid, clear and ripe fresh fruit.

Penfolds 'The Valleys' Chardonnay 1998, Australian White 16.5 £5.99
Big and full, but has a very graceful finishing thrust of creamy nuttiness (from the wood).

Australian Cabernet Sauvignon NV, Somerfield, Australian Red 16.0 £4.99
Delightfully uncluttered fruit of blackberries and plums, brilliantly soft and textured without being gooey, and very firm tannins.

TESCO

Valdivieso Barrel Selection Syrah 2000, Chilean Red 16.5 £5.99
Very berried, bustling richness, superbly classy tannins and a lovely lingering spiciness. A superb Syrah/Shiraz for the money

Australian Reserve Chardonnay, Tesco 2000, Australian White 16.0 £4.99
Superb example of Aussie Chardonnay under a fiver: rich textured, complex, plump yet lithe, beautifully polished. Part of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

Great with Chicken, Tesco 2000, French White 16.5 £3.99
A superbly oily cultured wine of deep fruit, slightly toffeed and melony, and it has a superb texture. And it would be great with roast chicken

Chianti Classico, Castello di Fonterutoli 1998, Italian Red 16.0 £22.99
Delicious Chianti, remarkably couth and hugely and devilishly tannic. Laying it down for three to four years will mitigate the latter, but will the fruit still show such vibrancy? I think so. One of the finest Chiantis – 15 per cent of the blend is Cabernet (plus 85 per cent Sangiovese).

Valdivieso Cabernet Sauvignon 2001, Chilean Red 16.0 £4.99
Delicious chewy tannins, savoury and rich, cling to the fruit for a thrilling conclusion.

Frescobaldi Pomino Benefizio 1998, Italian White 16.5 £11.99
One of Italy's most compelling white wines to compare, mutatis mutandis, with fine Meursault. It has beautiful texture, lovely lingering creamy vegetality and great elegance. 100 stores.

Great with Pizza and Pasta Red, Tesco 2000, Italian Red 16.0 £3.99
Soft and spicy, it lives up effortlessly to its billing.

Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, Tesco 2001, New Zealand White 16.5 £6.49
Starts crisp and clean then develops a lovely, lifting gooseberry richness. An elegant white of great charm. Part of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

Minervois, Tesco 2000, French Red 16.5 £4.99
Such insouciant richness and tempered tannicity. Depth, delicacy, daring and sheer velvet class here. Part of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

Fetzer Zinfandel/Shiraz 2000, USA Red 16.5 £5.99
Superbly cheeky blend of chutzpah and cheerful cherries, plums, raspberries, ripe tannins, spice and a very lingering soft finish. A very energetic wine of great food compatibility.

Great with Pizza and Pasta White, Tesco 2000, French White 16.5 £3.99
Yes, it's terrific, superb, marvellous – and it speaks truly Has bright, rich, nutty fruit, is dry and incisive and has a lovely crisp finish.

Thelema Mountain Chardonnay 1999, South African White 17.5 £9.99
One of the Cape's greatest Chardonnays in its subtle, smokey richness and complex vegetality. Brilliant balance and elegance, and makes Le Montrachet look distinctly dodgy at five times the price. Wine advisor stores only.

Charles Heidsieck Réserve Mise en Cave 1996, French Sparkling Wine/Champagne 16.0 £23.49
Compelling dryness and delicacy. A bubbly to make the heart sing. To be served to old soldiers on their deathbeds.

Luis Felipe Edwards Carmenère 2000, Chilean Red 16.5 £5.99
Quite the perfect balance of berries, tannins and acids, which swing well together in textured collusion. A memorably aromatic, very modern carmenère of scrumptiousness and stealth.

Lawsons Dry Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2001, New Zealand White 16.5 £7.99
Now screwcapped and all the better for it. It'll keep its gorgeous subtle freshness and flavour in much better condition than any cork. This is a beautifully subtle, elegant Sauvignon.

Valdivieso Merlot 2000, Chilean Red 16.0 £4.99
Soft as a Gucci loafer, half as

aromatic, twice as delicious and fifty times better value

Great with Curry, Tesco 2000, French White 16.0 £3.99
A terrific, modern, warm-yet-crisp Sauvignon of zip yet melonosity. A lovely quaffing bottle. Does it suit curry? The milder sort, I guess, but it would not be my first choice – though Thai fish cakes would be excellent.

Zorro Tempranillo/Monastrell 2000, Spanish Red 16.0 £4.49
Ripe, dry and hugely curry-friendly. Hugely entertaining richness and spicy tannicity. A lovely forward wine of brilliant unpretentious and fruity charm.

Bordeaux Sauvignon Blanc, Tesco 2000, French White 16.0 £4.99
A classy white wine of classic Bordeaux blanc proportions: clean, minerally, crisp and dry. Part of Tesco's so-called 'Finest' range.

Concha y Toro Casillero del Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, Chilean Red 16.5 £3.99
Berried up to its neck in hedgerow pickings, which present beautifully structured interplay between the tannins, the texture and the classy, complex finish

WAITROSE

Cape Mentelle Cabernet/Merlot 1999, Australian Red 16.0 £10.49
A Bordeaux blend-alike but far from taste-alike: this offers tar, tannins, nuts, liquorice, hedgerows and baked spices.

L A Cetto Petite Sirah 1999, Mexican Red 16.0 £4.99
Superb value. Has brilliant creamy, spicy berries and plump, rich tannins.

Charles Heidsieck Réserve Mise en Cave 1996, French Sparkling Wine/Champagne 16.0 £27.49
Compelling dryness and delicacy. A bubbly to make the heart sing. To be served to old soldiers on their deathbeds.

Wither Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2001, New Zealand White 17.0 £7.99
Has multi-layered lushness that retains a surprising complexity of fruits (including pineapple, pear and peach) and a rich finish.

La Cetate Merlot 1999, Romanian Red 16.5 £4.99
Magnificently assertive berries and fine tannins, great leathery texture and a rousing finish.

Yellow Tail Merlot 2000, Australian Red 16.0 £4.99
Different approach here. Has a crunchy leatherness, spiced cherries and very good tannins.

Errázuriz Syrah 2000, Chilean Red 16.5 £7.99
A delightfully serious yet provocative Syrah (with one per cent Cabernet) which has individuality, poise, texture, superb tannins and remarkably couth richness

Bacchus English Table Wine 2000, English White 16.0 £7.99
Certainly England's most adventurous and stylish bottle – and not only if we restrict ourselves to the label. This is the best 2000 vintage English (Suffolk) white wine I've tasted. Has lovely crisp, fresh fruit of elegance and style.

Amativo Salento 2000, Italian Red 16.0 £5.99
This has such rich exuberance that it startles the palate with its berried treasures just as the tongue reels from the delicious tannins.

Pietracalda Fiano di Avellino 2000, Italian White 17.5 £12.99
Has quite wonderful textured fruit of highly tempered richness without paranoia. Offers cashews, milk chocolate, raspberry, pineapple and, crucially, great unmeshed acids. A wine to drink in preference to much more expensive Chardonnays. Available at only 13 branches

Bodegas Lurton Pinot Gris 2000, Chilean White 16.0 £4.49
Fantastic apricot dryness and crisp nuttiness. A lithe, dry, classy Pinot Gris of class and style

French Connection Réserve Viognier VdP d'Oc 2000, French White 16.5 £4.99
Has remarkably smooth, crisp peach, apricot, lemon and gooseberry with a touch of macadamia on the finish.

Basedow Barossa Valley Semillon 2000, Australian White 16.5 £5.99
Superb texture, oily and free-running. Terrific balance of acids of ripe fruit – pineapple, strawberry and melon.

Gracia Chardonnay Reserva Superior 1999, Chilean White 16.5 £5.99
Gently dry, delicately woody, decidedly stylish and individual. Lingering creaminess and subtle vegetality combine on a finish of considerable impact.

Wither Hills Chardonnay 2000, New Zealand White 18.0 £8.99
To be compared with the world's finest Chardonnays. This slow to-evolve, creamy, vegetal, rich, classic specimen has new world chutzpah and old world subtlety

Kendermanns Cellar Selection Late Harvest 1999, Rheinhessen, German White 16.0 £5.99
A delicious, sweet but far from cloying wine to sip at the end of a meal.

Fairview Viognier 2001, South African White 16.0 £8.99
Pure apricot richness of impressive finesse.

Vouvray Pierre Brevin 2000, Demi Sec, French White 16.0 £5.75
What a lovely tangy richness. Terrific, different, finely blended minerals, acids and fruit.

W2 Chardonnay 2000, Australian White 16.0 £5.99
Classy ripeness yet fresh nutty edge to the acids, which confine, deliciously, the characteristic melon richness.

Fairview Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2001, South African White 16.0 £4.99
Very dry, surprisingly so for Fairview, but the crispness of the nuts and apricots, though very subtle, is telling.

Mehringer Zellerberg Riesling Kabinett 1993, German White 16.0 £5.99
Delightful mineral tang to the dry, rich fruit of great elegance.

Castello di Arcano Superiore Pinot Grigio 2000 (Organic), Italian White 16.0 £6.99
A beautifully dry, apricoty Pinot Grigio with delicious, chewy, nutty elegance.

Wild Cat Catarratto 2000 (Organic), Italian White 17.0 £4.49
Beautifully oily, crunchy fruit with raspberry, olives, melon and a touch of chive. Remarkable texture, highly individual and classy.

Château Terres Douces Cuvée Prestige 1999, French White 16.0 £5.69
Startlingly original – lovely wood integration – yet stays pertly fresh and keen. Very classy and elegant.

French Connection Réserve Marsanne/ Rousanne VdP d'Oc 2000, French White 16.0 £4.99
Slightly oily peach fruit with gently citrusy surging acids to provide balance. Superb value for money.

Bidoli Cabernet, Fruili 2000, Italian Red 16.0 £5.99
Dry, peppery richness with energetic blackberries and gripping tannins

Château Segonzac, Premières Côtes de Blaye 1999, French Red 16.5 £6.99
Superb claret for the money. Spicy plums, blackberries,

cherries, herbs and meaty tannins all coalesce on the finish for a memorable climax

Santa Julia Bonarda/ Sangiovese 2001, Argentinian Red 16.0 £4.49
Superb texture, plummy, plump and ripe, with brilliant tannins backing rich, complex, warm, steady berries

Canepa Semillon 2001, Chilean White 16.0 £3.99
Deliciously chewy and under-ripe fruit with a hint of cob nut, melon and lime.

Saumur Rouge 2000, Les Nivières, French Red 16.0 £4.25
Gloriously minerally edge, slatey berries (black and rasp) and fine, lush tannins.

Domaine Zind Humbrecht Riesling Herrenweg 1999, French White 16.0 £3.99
Delicious, dry peachy richness with nuts, minerals and a touch of honey

La Rena Salice Salentino Riserva 1998, Puglia, Italian Red 16.0 £5.99
Remarkably warmly textured and chewy. The berries are ripe but not over-insistent and the tannins are finely spread.

MontGras Cabernet/ Syrah Reserva 2000, Chilean Red 17.0 £6.99
Awesome texture here, where layers of berries descend in order of sweetness to meet chocolate, cream, toffee and savoury tannins and then explode with quality and power in the throat.

Hilltop Riverview Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 2000, Hungarian White 16.0 £3.99
A lovely rich, warm, spicy food wine that has sufficient heft to go with oriental cuisine

Abbotts Ammonite Côtes du Roussillon 2000, French Red 16.0 £4.99
An impressively cohesive blend of grapes. Smooth yet characterful, herby, rich, with good tannins and acids

Château Saint-Maurice, Côtes du Rhône 2000, French Red 16.0 £4.49
A lovely jammy opening that provides herbs, then toffee, then berries – and only then do the tannins cruise in.

Coteaux du Giennois 2000, French White 16.0 £5.49
An individual, fresh (and very refreshing approach to) Sauvignon: crisp and clean as a whistle

Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2001, New Zealand White 16.5 £6.99
Has beautiful pebbly and minerally acids allied to elongated gooseberry and lemon fruit.

Huet Clos de Bourg Vouvray 1999, Demi Sec, French White 17.0 £9.95

Gloriously individual, dry, honeyed fruit and baked nuts. A magnificent conversation piece.

La Cite Cabernet Sauvignon VdP d'Oc 2000, French Red 16.5 £3.99

Superbly textured, complex and charmingly fruity. Uniting berries, acids, herbs, liquorice and tannins in outstanding harmony.

Cape Mentelle Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc 2001, Australian White 17.0 £9.99

Always one of Western Australia's greatest whites, this has tangy fruits and lovely acids but will improve even further over the next year.

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